

The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1855.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE Congress at Vienna is still going on with its tedious forms. From all accounts, it seems probable that the first point has in some way been settled, as well as the general acceptance of the Four Points as the starting point of the negotiation. But as the Plenipotentiaries are advancing with the minutest attention to forms, that progress threatens to be slower than that of the besiegers at Sebastopol. Indeed, the reports from that quarter are so much more cheering—the English muster so much higher a number of effectives in excellent health, and the supplies and equipments are so much better and more expeditiously managed, that we might expect to hear of the "fall of Sebastopol" before the fall of Russia in Congress at Vienna; only, unluckily, the Russians are making similar progress—advancing their works, increasing their supplies, and strengthening all their positions.

Although nothing definitive has transpired respecting the proceedings in Congress, however, some statements have come out which are probable, and are evidently believed by those who ought to know. One is, that Austria has so far an understanding with the Western Powers as to have agreed upon military proceedings and a declaration of war, should the proceedings of the Congress be cut short.

Prussia Proper is showing signs of movements—by Prussia we mean the Nation, and not the Court. There is, though clogged as it is by a fantastical and restricted franchise, some kind of representation in the Second Chamber; and here the voice of the people does to a certain degree make itself heard. A Committee appointed to consider the War Estimates, lays before the Chamber the draft of a declaration expressing regret that Prussia has forfeited her position at the Congress by deviating from the course of policy which the Western Powers have upheld. Nothing can be more manly than this declaration, or more opposed to the Court. Although a majority were not bold enough to vote the address, we are able to say, from positive knowledge, that it expresses the feeling of the Prussian people—its multitudes, its middle classes, its numerous professional classes, and its army—in other words, its numbers, wealth, head, and right arm. With such a state of feeling at home, it is quite impossible that Prussia can effectively make war on the side of Russia; and it is evident that

her people feel humiliated by the unnecessary and insincere position which her Court persists in keeping as long as possible.

Several of the foreign sovereigns have been addressing their soldiers, directly or indirectly. The Czar has been paying compliment on his own part, and on that of his father, to the soldiery of Russia. The Don Cossacks he reminds that the Emperor NICHOLAS loved and respected them, and sought their welfare; and, as a proof, he mentions that that potentate wore the uniform of a Don Cossack! If NICHOLAS so far paid tribute to the tribe, ALEXANDER the SECOND crowns his bounty by sending the old clothes as a present to the Don Cossacks—one Joseph's coat for the million!—whereupon Punch makes merry with the present of "old clo'."

The Emperor NAPOLEON has also been addressing his soldiers in Paris, and telling them that the military are the true nobility of the age. Many classes in this country would be disposed to contest that assertion; yet some truth is in it, which they would do well to consider. Cardinal WISEMAN enforces another truth when he tells us that the English army lacks the great element of strength, of intelligence, of national interest which is found in the French and, we may add, the Prussian army. That is a strong infusion of the middle class. The regulations practically exclude them from our army; limiting the military forces to the aristocracy, the very wealthy, and the extremely poor. An improved regulation would not only strengthen the army by admitting the middle classes, but would strengthen the middle classes by giving them an infusion of military spirit, knowledge, and sympathy. Science and economy are great things; but, after all, military force is the ultimate arbiter of political power; and no class can possess military power, no country can be independent, which is not possessed of the sword.

High political subjects have taken the foremost places in Parliament this week, and have given rise to some important Ministerial declarations. Lord LYNCHURST has made a lucid and connected survey of the whole history of Prussian vacillation, from the time when FREDERICK THE GREAT initiated the partition of Poland, down to the last evasions at Berlin; a survey which drew from Lord CLARENDON the admission that he could not contradict the statement, and that Austria has been as faithful to her engagements as Prussia has been false.

A question from Lord WILLIAM GRAHAM elicited from Lord PALMERSTON the formal statement that the Government of this country would not desire the partition of Hungary from Austria; Lord PALMERSTON, however, did not express similar opinions with regard to Poland. He pointed out how, by means of that country, with its numerous forces, and its great armies, Russia penetrates like a wedge between Austria and Prussia, menacing Germany; and he suggested that it would be for the interests of Germany, and her independence, to readjust Poland.

Another important statement made by Ministers is, that a representative constitution will be faithfully given to the island of Newfoundland. There is the more reason to believe this assurance since local self-government has been so freely conceded to all the other colonies of Great Britain.

We have the rationale of another colonial question—the negotiation for the sale of Cuba to the United States. The correspondence signed by Messrs. BUCHANAN, MASON, and SOULE, the representatives of the United States in England, France, and Spain, on the one side, and Mr. MARCY, Secretary of State at Washington, on the other, will be found to consist with the statements which we made at the time respecting the meeting of the American representatives. They proposed that their Government should seek the sale of Cuba, with a plain intimation that its peaceful purchase would be better than its forcible seizure. Mr. MARCY checks, almost rebukes Mr. SOULE, for making his hint so plain, and yet concludes with a suggestion so very like it, that we protest we cannot see the difference. It was this rebuke which was the cause of Mr. SOULE's resignation; but by this time the Government of Washington must have learned that Spain is not prepared to sell the island.

Wednesday was duly observed as a day of prayer and humiliation—that is, shops were closed; the working-classes had perforce a holiday, which was for some a pleasure, for others a privation; men in business gave or accepted invitations to dinner; there was a service in the churches, with much solemn nonsense uttered in the pulpit, and also some striking truths. It was, in short, a Sunday, with a set subject for the sermons of the land; and it is hard, amongst the ten thousand established ministers and the proportionate number of Dissenters, if there were not some clever and practised men to give polished, if not original, theses on the topic of the day.

The *Times* enabled persons, whose minds were thus bent upon religious considerations, to use the materials for reflecting upon a great moral, religious question—the opening of the British Museum and similar places of rational amusement on Sunday. Sir Josiah Walsley had had a motion on the subject in the House of Commons, and the report of the debate appeared in the journals of the morning. The motion was not carried, on grounds perfectly well stated by Lord Palmerston—namely, that the majority of the public represented in Parliament is disinclined to interfere with the observance of the Sunday. Lord Stanley, however, laid the reason for the motion on higher ground. The observance of the Sunday, he said, is not the end, but only the means towards encouraging a moral and religious feeling; knowledge has the same effects—particularly when it leads the mind to study the laws which govern society, the world, and the universe: and hence it is an auxiliary to religion, when rational amusements not only serve as attractions from a more vicious indulgence, but positively enlighten and elevate the mind. There are some men in the House perfectly capable of understanding that argument—235 cannot; hence they voted for that exclusion which the public at large regard as a mean and canting exhibition of class tyranny. It was with the accompaniment obligato of that debate reported in the journals, that the preachers of the day uttered their sermons to many who attended in church for the sake of appearances.

The holiday, the compulsory holiday, would enable multitudes again to traverse the familiar streets to see the poor neglected alike by the wealthy, the Legislature, and the Church; to see disordered abodes; to see the neglect and defiance of "the laws of nature and of the God of nature" everywhere; and to contrast this neglect of "works" with the new doctrine that is unquestionably beginning to make progress in the pulpit—That it is by works that man shows his obedience to the divine government, and earns the right to a judgment in his favour.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE CASE OF LORD LUCAN.

LORD LUCAN again brought forward his case on Monday night. He moved for copies of reports and correspondence relating to the charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade at Balaklava; and, after having minutely described the proceedings of the day, contended that the nature of Lord Raglan's orders, taken with the position of the English and French forces at the time, left him entirely without discretion to delay or decline the attack. He complained that he was not supported, as he should have been, with infantry; and stated, with respect to the French cavalry which Lord Raglan had said were on the left, that he thought they were advancing to join his division, and that he should have incurred a grave responsibility had he refused to advance, and had left the French to bear the brunt of the encounter. In explanation of his not having ordered a troop of horse artillery to accompany, he said that they would infallibly have stuck fast in the ploughed fields over which they would have had to proceed, and been destroyed in their inability to retreat. His lordship commented upon the letters which had passed between himself, the Commander-in-chief, and the War-office, and concluded by renewing his demand for a court-martial.—Lord PANMURE, in reply, asserted that Lord Lucan's recall arose from no suspicion of his professional ability, or his courage, but from discordances which rendered his continued service under Lord Raglan inexpedient. He said that, Lord Lucan having been employed by Lord Raglan since the charges against him had been made, the offence has been condoned, and that therefore a court-martial would be unprecedented, and indeed impossible.—After some remarks from Lord HARDINGE (who said that he considered the order of Lord Raglan discretionary, not imperative, and that it was impossible under the circumstances to grant an inquiry), from the Duke of RICHMOND, the Earl of DERRY, the Duke of NEWCASTLE, and the Earl of HARDWICKE, LORD LUCAN replied, and the motion was agreed to.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

The House of Commons having resolved itself into Committee upon Newspaper Stamps, &c., the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made a statement of the intentions of Government upon this subject. He referred to the appointment of the select committee of 1851, which, after investigating the question of

the newspaper stamp, reported that it was not a desirable subject of taxation; and to the resolution of the House last session, on the motion of Mr. M. Gibson, that the law was ill-defined, and that the subject demanded the earliest consideration of the House. He then adverted to the plan of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, observing that the reasons which had influenced Lord Aberdeen's Government were partly the resolutions of the House of Commons and partly the anomalous state of the law which had grown up under the Board of Inland Revenue, and the circulation of class newspapers, part stamped and part not stamped. After a time a portion of these newspapers introduced news, and, no doubt, according to the strict interpretation of the law, they were subject to a penalty when unstamped. But if the law had been enforced strictly there must have been numerous prosecutions, and Parliament must have been asked to make the law more severe. Mr. Gladstone had decided to relax the law, and to make it uniform; and the plan now submitted to the House was substantially the same:

"The outline of the bill which I shall ask permission of the House to lay upon the table, if these resolutions shall be agreed to, is based upon the principle of abolishing the legal definition of a newspaper, and extending the existing rules respecting newspapers to all printed periodical publications which appear at intervals not greater than 31 days. In the case of all periodicals falling within that definition, the present penalty for the publication of any newspaper without a stamp will be repealed; and it will be optional with the proprietors of any such periodical either to stamp any portion of their publication, or to leave it altogether unstamped. If they come to the Stamp-office and apply for stamped sheets upon which to print any portion of their impression, they will be subjected to precisely the same rules with respect to superficial contents as existing newspapers are subjected to. That is to say, the first sheet will contain 2295 superficial square inches at 1d. stamp, and the second sheet containing 1148 square inches, will be covered by a stamp of one halfpenny. In this respect I propose to make no alteration, but simply to extend the present limit of superficial contents to all periodical publications which shall appear within intervals of 31 days. With regard to all periodical publications which shall stamp any portion of their circulation, I propose that they should be subjected to the present rules respecting registration and sureties."

Sir G. C. Lewis then replied to the objection that the contemplated measure will cause great confusion in newspaper printing establishments, owing to one portion of the impression being on stamped paper, and another portion on unstamped; and stated that the opinion of practical men is altogether against any such apprehension. With respect to the anticipated flood of seditious, blasphemous, and immoral publications, which it is thought would ensue upon the proposed measure, he remarked that there are already several cheap publications exempt from the stamp, and circulating most extensively; and he vindicated the character of these publications, adding some curious particulars with respect to them:

"One of these is a periodical of which I confess that I never heard the name until recently. I mean a penny weekly publication called the *London Journal*, and which, I am convinced upon very sufficient evidence, circulates 510,000, or more than half a million copies per week, or equal to 26,520,000 per annum—a circulation, in fact, exceeding by 10,000,000 that of the *Times*, though it appears only once a week. I have examined certain numbers of this periodical, and find that it somewhat resembles the *Penny Magazine*, which was well known several years ago. The *London Journal* appears to me to be perfectly unexceptionable in point of morality; its matter may not, indeed, be of the most instructive character—it is, in fact, rather amusing than instructive—but, certainly, it does not at all correspond with the very frightful picture of cheap periodicals which has been drawn to us by the objectors to the repeal of the compulsory stamp. There is another publication, similar in its character—the *Family Herald*—which circulates about 240,000 weekly, or at the rate of 12,500,000 per annum. It is also somewhat analogous to the *Penny Magazine*, which is now extinct, and which at one time had a circulation of about 200,000 copies per week. These facts must be considered as showing that the spontaneous taste of the poorer classes of readers in this country, as regards cheap unstamped periodicals at the present moment, leads them to prefer a species of literature wholly innocuous in its character, and quite free from all the dangerous elements which have been held up to our fears. Now, let us look to the reverse of the picture. Some years ago, I am informed, there were five or six publications in London of a different description from the foregoing. Among them were the *Town*, and others of a similarly licentious character. The illustrations they contained corresponded with their letterpress. They obtained a certain circulation; but a gentleman who made an inquiry into this subject a few years since, and who recently completed his inquiry, assures me that the entire class of publications of this nature is now extinct; that out of five or six which he noticed a few years ago not one now remains in existence. It will be in the recollection of the House that

there was likewise a higher class of publications of the same character as those to which I am now referring, comprising the *Age*, the *Satirist*, and the *Argus*, which enjoyed considerable circulation some few years since, but they have now also ceased to exist. It may, I believe, be said with perfect truth, that no immoral or licentious publication has a long life or obtains an extensive popularity."

In answer to the objection that there would be no press for the rich and another for the poor, Sir G. C. Lewis said he thought it would be an advantage for the uneducated to possess newspapers suited to their capacities. The alteration of the law which he proposed would certainly entail a loss of revenue, to the amount of about 200,000*l.* a year, and this would undoubtedly be inconvenient at the present time; but the House should recollect that to refuse the repeal of the stamp would be to recede from its own resolution, and to render necessary the passing of some more stringent law.

Mr. GLADSTONE was glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not indisposed to give a favourable consideration to the establishment of a low postal tariff for printed matter, the effect of which, he believed, would tend to indemnify him for the loss of revenue on the stamp duty. He objected to the proposed retention of securities as a condition for postal facilities; and thought that the protection of literary property should receive some extension with reference to newspapers.

Sir FRANCIS BARING disputed the Chancellor of the Exchequer's assertion that the loss to the revenue would be only 200,000*l.* a year. He argued, from calculations made by Mr. Rowland Hill, that the loss would be 250,000*l.* He thought it very ill-advised to introduce such a measure before the introduction of the Budget, and that the House ought not to vote away so large a sum until it knew the whole state of the finances of the country.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON deprecated discussing the measure purely on revenue grounds, since the question was something more than a mere fiscal question; and he regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had omitted that part of Mr. Gladstone's scheme which provided for the transmission by post of all printed matter at a rate of one penny for five ounces—an arrangement which, he contended, would have more than replaced the loss by opening a new source of revenue. The measure, as a whole, was not so good as that already before the House.

Mr. BRIGHT considered that the objection with respect to the loss of 200,000*l.* of revenue was of little worth. The fact was, that both the late and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, as well as many other gentlemen who had examined the subject, had discovered that the law was in such a condition that it could not be worked by the authorities at Somerset House. With regard to the question of literary piracy in connexion with newspapers, he thought there was no fear of that to any greater extent than already exists. The evening papers, he said, are made up from the morning papers; and he believed that the instinctive dislike which Englishmen feel to anything mean and dishonest would prevent the publication at ten o'clock in the morning of a penny paper made up from the dealer and morning papers. He was convinced, however, that a large number of good and cheap daily papers would be published if the stamp were abolished; and he believed that five or six years would show that all the votes of Parliament for educational purposes have been as mere trifles compared with the vast results which would flow from this measure.

Mr. JOHN MCGREGOR, Mr. BENTINCK, Mr. R. M. LAING, Mr. PACE, and Sir H. WILLOUGHBY spoke against the measure; and Mr. WALKER and Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE in favour of it.—Ultimately the resolutions were agreed to.—On Tuesday the bill was read for the first time; and the second reading was fixed for Monday next.

THE UNFUNDED DEBT.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply Sir H. WILLOUGHBY called attention to the size and amount of the unfunded debt. It appeared to him that a sum of 1,750,000*l.* had been added to the debt without sufficient notice to the House.—Mr. RICARDO agreed with Sir H. Willoughby, and thought that Mr. Gladstone had broken his promise of not adding to the permanent debt by a loan.

Mr. J. WILSON, in reply, said that the unfunded debt at the beginning of 1853 consisted of Exchequer-bills to the amount of 17,742,000*l.*, and at the beginning of the present year only 17,198,000*l.* being a reduction of 559,000*l.*; that the total debt when Lord Aberdeen came into office, was 761,622,000*l.*, and on the 5th of January last 751,839,000*l.*—a reduction of 9,783,000*l.*; that the amount of Exchequer-bills on the 5th of January 1855, was 1,045,000*l.*, and, deducting this sum from 9,783,000*l.*, there was still a reduction of the unfunded debt to the extent of 8,740,000*l.*, and of the unfunded debt to that of 559,000*l.*; so that the aggregate debt funded and unfunded, was less by 9,299,000*l.* than at the commencement of 1853. He stated that while all the expenses of the war had been paid

every depend upon the Government having been met from day to day, taxes voted last year for war expenses, uncollected, and which would become due in April, amounted to 5,020,000*l.* and that at the end of the year, if the estimates had not been exceeded, all the expenses of the war would have been defrayed from the income, leaving a credit of 1,000,000*l.* in the Exchequer. He acknowledged that the 1,750,000*l.* Exchequer-bills had been renewed, and he explained the nature of the transaction, as well as the connexion of the Government with savings banks' money.

Mr. GLADSTONE admitted that he had said on the 8th of March, 1854, that he should not want the 1,750,000*l.* and the additional income-tax; but on the 8th of May he had informed the House he should require both. Referring to Mr. Ricardo's assertion that the attempt to provide for the expenses of the war out of the taxes of the year had failed, Mr. Gladstone confirmed Mr. Wilson's statement that, had the expenses of the war been confined within the expected limits, there would have been an actual surplus of 1,000,000*l.* The excess of expenditure beyond the amount of provision presents (he said) only the comparatively insignificant sum of 2,000,000*l.* He submitted, therefore, that his system could not fairly be said to have failed.

Mr. DISRAELI was of opinion that the promise held out by Mr. Gladstone in March, 1854, had been broken; but, pending the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the delay of which he regretted), he thought imperfect and desultory debates on the subject very impolitic.—Sir FRANCIS BARNES acknowledged that altered circumstances had rendered the repayment of the 1,750,000*l.* impossible; but he thought the House should have been distinctly apprised of the change of intention on the part of Government, and this, he contended, had not been done. He had never seen, in any report of the debates, the announcement to which Mr. Gladstone had alluded; and he mentioned that, at the end of the session, the Queen's speech contained an allusion to the exigencies of the war having been met "without any addition to the permanent debt of this country."—Mr. GLADSTONE reiterated his assertion that he announced the modification of his original design in May, and the subject shortly afterwards dropped.*

THE SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN THE EAST.

Mr. STAFFORD called attention to the medical arrangements made for the sick and wounded soldiers in the East. He considered the existing arrangements of the hospitals at Scutari and Smyrna were in many respects inadequate; and he desired to be informed what were the plans of Government with respect to those establishments.—Mr. FREDERICK PEARCE stated that great improvements had taken place in the hospitals at Balaklava, Scutari, and Smyrna, as well as in the transports which convey the invalid soldiers. The number of the sick, in spite of the diminution which had recently taken place, was still very high; but their condition was greatly ameliorated.—Lord PALMERSTON stated that Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Gavin, and Mr. Rawlinson had been sent to the East for the purpose of inspecting the condition of the hospitals; and that those gentlemen were armed with powers to carry out immediately any improvements they might think fit.

THE POST OFFICE.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, Mr. WILSON moved that the sum of 1,638,861*l.* be granted to defray the charges for Post Office services and the collection of the revenue which would come in course of payment in the year 1855, ending the 31st of March 1856. After some discussion upon alleged abuses in the Irish branch of the service (the consideration of which, however, was postponed until some future occasion), the vote was agreed to.

THE CASE OF MR. CARDEN.

On Tuesday, in answer to a question from Lord BROCKLEHURST, addressed to the recent Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of ST. GERMAN explained that, in consequence of the precarious state of Mr. Carden's health, he had been offered his release under certain conditions (which we have already noticed in these columns), but that he had taken exception to a clause in the recognizances as prepared by the crown solicitor, and refused the offer.

THE POLICY OF PRUSSIA.

Lord LYNCHBURGH called attention to the position of Prussia with reference to the Vienna negotiations. He alluded to the claim of the Prussian Government to take an active part in the negotiations, and to the opposition to that claim of the Allied Powers. He thought that opposition quite just, since Prussia had never actively co-operated with France, Austria, and England. He had never anticipated any cordial co-operation on the part of Prussia; and he referred to the language of Baron Manteuffel, the Prussian Prime Minister, on the occasion of proposing a loan

of thirty millions for military operations. Upon that occasion, he distinctly stated that Prussia had expressed her opinion upon the policy of Russia, and that he did not conceive that Prussia was called upon to go further, and take an active part; adding, that he did not conceive that German interests were involved in the contest. It was surely very derogatory to a great Power, as well as a neglect of duty, to admit, as Prussia had done in the case of the Russian aggression, that a wrong had been committed, and yet to take no means whatever for redressing it. Lord LYNCHBURGH referred to the conduct of Prussia after the evacuation of the Principalities by the Russians. On that occasion, Prussia said that Russia had acceded to all that could reasonably be required, and, therefore, Prussia withdrew her support from the Confederation. She then took every opportunity of thwarting the attempts of Austria to induce the minor states of Germany to co-operate with the Allies. Subsequently she objected to the "four points," more especially to the joint protective rate; and, though invited, did not attend the meeting of the Allies at Vienna on the 8th of August, at which the four points were laid down as a basis of negotiations. Recently she had refused to sign the treaty of the 2nd of December, stating that she would subscribe similar treaties with this country and with France individually; but, although this offer was accepted, she has never done so to this day. "I earnestly hope and entreat, therefore," said Lord LYNCHBURGH, "that the Allied Powers will adhere to the decision to which they have come, and not on any pretence whatever allow Prussia to become a party to these negotiations."

The Earl of CLARENDON, in reply, said that Prussia was at present excluded from the conference, and that it was entirely her own act that shut her out. He added, however, that he did not conceive that the negotiations with Prussia had come to an end; indeed, fresh proposals were made only two or three days ago. But the unfortunate thing is, that the conference has commenced while Prussia, by her own act, continues excluded. His lordship thus wound up his address:—

"I am not questioning the right of Prussia to pursue any policy she may think best for her own interest, but I may express my own inability to understand the drift of that policy, for it appears to me to be neither European, nor German, nor Prussian. It seems to me more calculated to thwart the policy of Austria than to keep the policy of Russia in check. But, however eccentric her course may be, Prussia is a great European Power, and cannot long remain insulated when great European interests are involved. She cannot side with Russia. She cannot trample on the feelings of her own people, or run counter to the views held with so much unanimity by 20,000,000 of Germans with respect to her powerful neighbour. She cannot side with Russia against Austria, because she knows well she would then be placed at the mercy of Russia and become a dependency of that Power. On the other hand, she will not side with Austria. I say, therefore, that Prussia is in an insulated and false position, and consequently powerless. This may be satisfactory to her enemies, but it is deeply regretted by her allies, and by the noble-minded and patriotic of her own population. It is from this position, from which neither honour nor dignity can be derived, that the Governments of France and England are most anxious she should be relieved, and it is to this object all our efforts have hitherto tended. I assure your lordships that no exertions shall hereafter be spared to secure the co-operation of Prussia, and that these will always be made in a friendly spirit, and with every regard to the honour and dignity of a great and independent Power." (Cheers.)

AUSTRIA AND POLAND.

Lord W. GRAHAM asked whether the Austrian Ambassador had called for any explanation of words said to have been used by a member of the Administration, Sir Robert Peel, to the effect that "no settlement of the Eastern question would be satisfactory unless Hungary and Poland were restored."—Lord PALMERSTON said the Austrian Government had known all along that the Government of Great Britain would regard it as a great misfortune if Hungary were to be separated from the Austrian Empire. With respect to Poland, in his opinion, that kingdom was a standing menace to Germany, and it was for the Governments of Germany to determine how far it endangered their interests; but the negotiations going on at Vienna were confined to the Four Points, and the Austrian Ambassador and Government were perfectly cognizant of the views and objects of the British Government.

THE COLONY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Mr. ROEBUCK wished to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in the absence of Lord J. Russell, whether responsible government would be conceded to Newfoundland, and whether the governor of that colony, who had made himself unpopular, would be removed.—Lord PALMERSTON said that the Ministry fully intended to confer on Newfoundland a responsible government; but he declined to give any information with respect to the removal of the governor.—Mr. BAUGHT complained that delegates from the

colonies never knew whom to apply to. He thought the Legislature of Newfoundland should be allowed to appoint their own governor. The present governor appeared unable to work harmoniously with those over whom he presided.—Mr. LOWE adverted to the condition of the colony of Victoria, where the Government, he observed, was almost at the mercy of a mob, urging that the only remedy for such a state of things, and against the Government falling into contempt, was to despatch the new constitution immediately to the colony.—Sir GEORGE GREY said the attention of Parliament would shortly be called to the subject of these constitutions. With regard to the disturbances at Victoria, they were of short duration, and had been effectually quelled.—After some further discussion, Mr. ROEBUCK intimated his intention of making a formal motion on the subject at some future day.

THE MILITARY COLLEGE AT SANDHURST.

Colonel NORTH moved a resolution, pledging the House to resolve itself into a committee to consider of an address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to give directions that ten orphans, sons of officers of our army, navy, and marines, shall receive their education, board, and clothing free from expense to their friends; that the number of cadets at Sandhurst now admissible into the first class be increased to fifty; and that departments in the civil branches of the public service shall be open to those cadets who may entitle themselves to them by their good conduct, and, by having passed those examinations which may be required of them, those cadets who prefer the military service to receive commissions as at present upon passing the necessary examinations; and to assure her Majesty that the House will make good the same.—The motion was seconded by Admiral WALCOTE.—Mr. FREDERICK PEARCE admitted that the object sought for was very desirable; but thought the House should first ascertain whether the income of the college, of which there is a surplus, is not sufficient to secure the end in view, as it may be open to doubt whether the public ought to be called upon to provide gratuitous education for the sons of officers. He recommended that the matter should be left with the Government.—Lord PALMERSTON took the same line of argument; and, a short discussion having taken place, his lordship consented to refer the matter to a committee, and the motion was consequently withdrawn.

IRISH GRAND JURIES.

Sir D. NORREYS moved for leave to bring in a bill to relieve grand juries from fiscal duties, and to place the administration of local affairs, in Ireland, in elected councils. He asserted that the Irish grand jury system was demoralising; and he proposed to transfer the management of local affairs from irresponsible to responsible bodies and functionaries.—The motion was seconded by Mr. POLLARD UNQUHART.—Mr. MACARTNEY opposed the motion, on the ground that so important a measure should be introduced by Government rather than by a private member.—Mr. HORSMAN entertained a different opinion. It was admitted that the Irish grand jury is defective; and he did not see why a gentleman so competent as Sir D. NORREYS should not introduce the bill the details of which could be discussed on future occasions.—Leave was given to introduce the bill.

SUNDAY RECREATION.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this House, it would promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the working classes of this metropolis, if the collections of natural history and of art in the British Museum and the National Gallery were open to the public inspection after morning service on Sundays." He said that the motion was introduced at the request of numerous bodies of workmen, and young men in offices, who thought that institutions such as the British Museum and the National Gallery, being public property, should be thrown open on the only day of the week on which a great part of the community have leisure to examine them. He was persuaded that a large amount of vice and dissipation would be removed by allowing the working classes to have more recreation on the Sabbath. His proposal involved a very slight degree of extra Sunday labour. A few police officers would be sufficient for the establishments thrown open, and not one person would be deterred from attending church. Many ministers of the Gospel had spoken and written in favour of the principle involved in his motion; in proof of which assertion he read extracts from the expressed opinions of Dr. Arnold, Archbishop Whatley, the Rev. Mr. Holden, and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths. The minds of the working classes had been greatly improved by the glories of the late Crystal Palace; and Sir Joshua, therefore, asked the House to decide in favour of a course which he believed would promote morality, education, and religion.—Mr. BIGGS, in seconding the motion, said that he could not find in the Scriptures any injunction to keep the first day of the week as a Jewish Sabbath, or, indeed, as any Sabbath at all—a statement to which he defied contradiction. He did not

* A correspondence between Mr. Gladstone and Lord Montagu, on the subject of the Exchequer Bills, has appeared in the daily papers, but contains nothing more than is comprised in the foregoing debate.

undervalue the Sabbath in the least; but he thought that the Protestant Church had made a great mistake in surrounding the duty with so much gloom and fanaticism, and that in this respect the Church of Rome had acted far more wisely. The working classes, he believed, were repelled from the Protestant Church by the ill-judged asperity which it exhibited on this point.

Mr. DAVIES, Mr. DRUMMOND, the Marquis of Blandford, Mr. KINNAIRD (who thought such a measure would lead to the universal performance of labour on the Sunday), and Mr. E. BALL, opposed the motion, on the general ground that it would destroy the sanctity of the Sabbath. Mr. DRUMMOND, however, admitted that the Sabbath in this country is observed too much in a spirit of Puritanism; but he objected to Sir Joshua Walsley wishing to change "the Lord's day" into "the people's day."—Mr. PELLATT moved an amendment to the effect that the National Gallery and the British Museum be closed on Sundays, and opened on Saturdays and Mondays; and Mr. GOULBOURN said that the original motion, if carried, would infallibly lead to the opening of other places of exhibition, and thus to a legalised desecration of the Sabbath.

Lord STANLEY, in an excellent speech, said the Sabbath was a means to an end—that end being the moral and intellectual improvement of those who observe it. The working man had only got Sunday for obtaining that object; for it was absurd to expect him to make any efforts for self-improvement on week-days after ten hours' labour. He believed that at no previous period was so large an amount of manual labour performed as now; and if the Sabbath was to be confined to theological subjects, the education of the working man would be stopped in his youth. It did not follow that the opening of a picture-gallery or a museum would take away from the attendance on churches. Would any gentleman say that he passed the Sabbath without regarding any secular matters? Was it the belief of hon. gentlemen that they would either send to church or keep at church any man who would not be there if these institutions were opened? A man who went to a place of worship simply because he had no other place to go to was not likely to profit much by what he heard there. The publicans are the great gainers by the closing of the British Museum, &c. He had endeavoured to speak on this matter without exaggeration, because he knew that in every part of England, especially in the manufacturing districts, if they asked a sensible man what was the great social evil of the time, 99 out of every 100 would give the same answer—"It is drunkenness." He knew from returns that in a single town in Lancashire, with between 70,000 and 80,000 inhabitants, 1000l. was daily spent in intoxicating drink. If they asked the judges what was the cause of the greatest amount of crime, they would answer—"Drunkenness." If they asked medical men what was the cause, directly or indirectly, of disease, and of more than one-half of the cases of insanity in our hospitals and asylums, they would give the same answer—"Drunkenness." He believed that the trouble of finding the cure for this evil was the great problem of our time. It was not to be done by restrictive laws; he believed that the first requisites are the means of recreation and self-instruction, for which, however, there is no time on week days. With respect to the few officials whom it would be necessary to employ, and who would be relieved by relays on alternating Sundays, he did not know on what ground honourable gentlemen could object to such a species of employment, when they themselves require the labours of their servants on the Sabbath. Mr. HEYWOOD, and Mr. W. J. Fox also spoke in favour of the motion; the latter observing that Sabatarianism had never been a doctrine of the early Christians, nor of the first Protestants, and that Calvin and Cranmer had been opposed to it, while Luther had actually commanded his followers to resist the imposition of any such law, and to walk, ride, dance, or hunt, if they pleased, on the Sabbath.

Lord PALMERSTON, in expressing his own opinion that Sunday ought to be a day of rest, devotion, and cheerful recreation, said that he believed the motion would do violence to the feelings of a large portion of the community; and that as it is highly desirable studiously to encourage those feelings, which are for the honour and well-being of a nation, he must oppose the original resolution. The amendment he should also oppose, because it would be inconvenient to the managers of the Museum and the National Gallery for those institutions to be open on Saturday, which is cleaning day.—On the House dividing, the numbers were—for the motion, 48; against, 235: majority, 187. The amendment was withdrawn.

LIMITED LIABILITY.

On Thursday the Earl of DERRY asked whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure modifying the existing laws of partnership, and introducing the principle of limited liability. He illustrated the evils of the present system by alluding to the great scarcity of raw paper material, and by showing that attempts to supply this

want by the introduction of new materials had failed, owing to the uncertain state of the law.—Lord STANLEY of Alderley replied that after the Easter recess the Government would introduce a bill to amend the law of partnership.

POLAND.

The Earl of HARROWBY presented petitions from Birmingham, King's Lynn, Hoxton, Sydenham, Yeovil, and other places, praying for the vigorous prosecution of the war, which could not, in the opinion of the petitioners, be brought to a successful issue without the assistance of the oppressed nationalities. The noble earl expressed his hearty concurrence in that opinion.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Earl GRANVILLE gave notice that on Friday, the 30th inst., he should move the adjournment of the House until Monday, the 16th of next month.

There being only thirty members present on Thursday night in the House of Commons, the House was adjourned to Friday.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

At the meeting of the committee on Friday week, Mr. T. M. Mackay was examined, and said that he undertook, six weeks ago, to provision the troops in the Crimea at 3s. 6d. per man per day. He proposed to supply them with one pound of bread, one pound of cooked beef or pork, a quarter of a pound of preserved potatoes (equal to a pound of raw), half a pint of ale, and half a pint of spirits; together with a variety of other articles, including tea, coffee, sugar, cheese, pickles, &c. He had every reason to believe he could make a good profit out of such a contract; but the Government had refused his offer because he was a few minutes too late.

Mr. James Macdonald, of the *Times*, was recalled, and gave several particulars of the state of the hospital at Scutari. He said that if a dying man required brandy, he could not have it without a requisition; and that at times the patients could not get their rations till night, owing to one man having to cook for two thousand sick and wounded. He could not pretend to say what had become of the stores sent out from England; and he hinted that they might be in England still.

MONDAY.

Mr. Augustus Stafford, M.P., was examined. He said he went to Scutari in November, and remained there several days. He never met with any opposition to his admission to the hospital; he met with great attention from the officials at Scutari. Soon after he attended the hospital there, he found the necessities in a very horrible state. He visited them, and was immediately after attacked with diarrhoea. In the ante-rooms adjacent to these places the filth was ankle-deep. He could not discover who was the responsible head of the hospital. The want of a proper head was the source of all the evils he saw there. He did not know where one department ended and the other began. Dr. Macgregor might have obtained men to cleanse the places of which he had spoken; but, if he had done so, he would in all probability have been told that such a duty was not in his department, and have been reprimanded. Indeed, he (Mr. Stafford) was not sure that the cleansing of such places would not have to pass through two or three departments. Mr. Stafford then mentioned that he had offered to "a superior authority" to pay the expenses of cleansing; but that the said authority refused because he had no warrant to repay the money. Upon being pressed to mention the name of this person, Mr. Stafford hesitated; and, the committee-room having been cleared of the public, the committee remained in consultation for three quarters of an hour, after which time the public were again admitted, and Mr. Stafford declared the name of the gentleman to be Major Sillery. The witness added that all the officials at Scutari seemed desirous to reform the evils that existed, but apparently feared to incur responsibility, and always entertained an apprehension that they were going beyond their duty. No words could describe the ghastly and filthy appearance of the soldiers as they were landed. They were covered with vermin and ordure. The naval hospital was in admirable condition; but the military hospital at Balaklava was very bad. There were no sheets, no linen of any kind, there, though it would have been possible to obtain them at Constantinople, between which city and Balaklava there was almost daily communication.

Captain Jocelyn Percy, who took out forty-seven nurses to Scutari, gave evidence to the same effect as the preceding with respect to the condition of the hospitals; and added that the French hospitals which he visited were excellently conducted.

TUESDAY.

Dr. Andrew Smith, the head of the Army Medical Board, deposed that he had had thirty years' experience as an army surgeon. He had the general management of the hospitals. There was a perpetual conflict going on between himself and the Secretary-at-War on the subject of the authority to be exercised over the purveyors. With respect to the supply of medical comforts, he stated that the Commander-in-Chief applied to the Ordnance, and the Ordnance to the Admiralty, which furnished them. The medical stores did not reach Malta for six or eight weeks. Several medical officers

explored the coasts of the Black Sea, for the purpose of discovering the sanitary condition of the country; but the authorities would not send out engineers to co-operate. No arrangements were made for hospitals until the arrival of the troops. The French contrived, in some way or other, to possess themselves of all the best buildings for these establishments. When Mr. Macdonald, of the *Times*, applied to him for letters of introduction to Scutari, he told him that every means had been taken to provide for the comfort of the hospitals, and that his mission would be supererogatory. He could not positively say whether all the suffering and misery was caused by the conflict between the superior medical men and the purveyors. He knew that the purveyors did call in question the authority of the medical officers. With respect to the disgraceful state of the "necessaries" at the hospital, representations were made to the engineers to carry out improvements and remove nuisances in the hospital, and various experiments were made and resulted in a conclusion that nothing could be done short of removing them. He supposed they were in this state while the Turks used them. If the medical officer had attended to it, he would, perhaps, have had to pull the building down, and he would by that have got into a mess sooner than he could have got out of it. (Laughter.) The superior officer in command of the Royal Engineers was the proper person to attend to these matters. The necessities, he believed, remained in this condition in consequence of a conflict between the various authorities. He recommended the furnishing of commodious steamers, for the conveyance of the sick and wounded, as hospital ships properly fitted up, but it was not done until some time after he suggested it. The witness also mentioned other instances in which his advice had not been attended to; and concluded by saying that he thought in such matters there should be one undivided authority, that of the Minister at War, in which case matters would receive immediate attention, decisions would be given without reference to multitudinous departments, and the public would know on whose shoulders to lay any blame which might be deserved.

THURSDAY.

Dr. Andrew Smith was further examined, and said that he did not believe the statements in the newspapers of a want of lint; he had reason to know there was plenty of lint and bandages after the battle of Alma. Letters which he had received from medical men gave a direct refutation to the statements of Mr. Stafford and Mr. Macdonald on this subject. He considered that at all times there was a sufficiency of medical comforts and appliances. Remonstrances were made to the transport department, over and over again, on the deficiencies in their service; but whether similar ones were made to the military, he could not say. He had also made representations to the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Sidney Herbert in conversation, and to the heads of the department at the Ordnance, and the manager of the store department at the Tower; but he did not know what representations were made to the Admiralty, and if he wanted to address the Admiralty, he must do it through the Commander-in-Chief. The witness here gave a list of the head medical men in charge at various times of the hospital at Scutari. These appointments were made by Dr. Hall, and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. He did not say it would not have been better to have appointed a permanent medical head, where such important interests were at stake. He believed that Smyrna was a healthy place, though not perhaps all the year round, and that far more accommodation could be obtained there than at Scutari. He considered himself in no way responsible for the failure or success of the hospital at Scutari, and he asked Mr. Sidney Herbert's permission to throw off all responsibility with reference to the hospital, although he was the head of the medical department, and responsible to the public for its efficiency and management. The answer he received from Mr. Sidney Herbert discharged him in his judgment from all responsibility concerning the hospital at Scutari. He gave suggestions for the establishment of the hospital at Smyrna to Mr. Sidney Herbert, but he did not know that they were acted on. He considered his main duty to be the supply of an adequate amount of medicine. Many of the difficulties and deficiencies that occurred arose out of the uncertainty with respect to the destination of the army. Great perplexity also resulted from there being no authorities on the beach to take care of the stores landed; but subsequently, at witness's request, the Duke of Newcastle sent out several tide-waiters. With respect to the ambulances, witness quoted the opinion of Colonel Torrens that they were very comfortable; and mentioned that various suggestions which he had made to the Government, regarding improvement in the arrangements, had been attended to. He held the purveyor of an hospital responsible in keeping it in a clean and orderly condition; and supposing he (witness) had it proved before him that the hospital was in a filthy state, and he was called on to punish any person for having it in that state, he would punish the purveyor, not the commandant. If the purveyor seriously neglected his duty, it would be the business of the commandant to put him under arrest, in order to an inquiry; but the commandant had no power to remove the purveyor, though he might appoint another to fill his place while he was under arrest. When witness wrote for winter clothing, everything that

human beings could desire was sent out in a month or so. As regarded the number of medical officers, he stated, in answer to Mr. Drummond, that nearly double the number had been sent out that had before gone with any army from this country. Having been told of the way in which the medical department was to be re-organised, he had said he could not consent to hold his appointment under the new state of things. It was his conviction that the whole medical staff of the army should be under the control of one department, distinct from, not subordinate to, the War-office. Until lately there had been a dispute as to exactly what articles the purveyor to an hospital was bound to supply on the requisition of the medical officers; but now the regulation was that whatever was ordered by the medical officers in the hospitals the purveyor was bound to furnish. That regulation, however, did not come into operation until about October or November of last year.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

GREAT secrecy is observed with respect to the proceedings at the Conferences, and nothing is yet officially known; but scraps of information ooze out, and conjecture supplies the gaps. The Congress, as we announced last week, met on the 15th inst., and Count Buol, it is said, addressed a conciliatory speech to the representatives of the Powers. The protocol of December 28 was then read and laid on the table, and the memorandum of January 7 was produced. Prince Gortschakoff and M. de Tittoff having intimated their readiness to treat on the basis of the four points, the first of these was agreed to *en bloc*. It runs as follows:—

"Art. 1. Abolition of the exclusive protectorate of Russia in Moldavia and Wallachia, the privileges accorded to those provinces by the Sultan being placed under the guarantee of the five Powers."

The above is, in substance, the account given by the *Times* Vienna correspondent; but the *Morning Post*, which claims to be peculiarly informed upon the subject, denies much of the foregoing, and says:—

"The discussion of the Four Points will be proceeded with, as we have stated, *seriatim*; but before they are entered upon, there are, we believe, several necessary preliminaries to be yet agreed upon. On Saturday, the protocol of Thursday's proceedings, recording the Four Points, and our interpretation of them, was signed by the Plenipotentiaries; and the Russian Ambassadors, in affixing their signatures, did so, reserving always the dignity of the Russian Empire from any detriment. Since this, a protocol of Saturday's proceedings has been signed; and in this form, from day to day, the labours of the Conference will be recorded."

The great difficulty is expected to lie in the third Article relative to the destruction of the Russian power in the Black Sea.

THE PROTEST OF THE PRUSSIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE committee of the Second Chamber of the Prussian Parliament, appointed to examine the bill relative to the war estimates, has proposed an Address to the King, from which we extract the following spirited paragraphs. They show that the heart of Prussia is on the side of honour and freedom, whatever may be the tendencies of its monarch and its diplomatists.

After asserting that the Prussian nation fully appreciates the blessings of the forty years' peace, the Address proceeds:—

"But the faithful people of your Majesty knows also that there exist blessings of a higher order; and if, in the complications with which the future is pregnant, the country should behold in danger its honour, its independence, or its position as a great Power, the Prussian people would place itself with full devotion, with its traditional fidelity, irresistible, with its blood and its possessions, by the side of your Majesty, to face all the chances of destiny."

"In placing at the foot of the throne the assurance of our unshaken fidelity, of our unlimited devotion, we have also another sacred duty to fulfil."

"We cannot refrain from expressing the anxiety with which your Majesty's faithful people have followed during the last ten months the policy of the Royal Government in the great European question."

"It has seen with sorrow Prussia leave the community of the great Powers represented last year at the Vienna Conference, and thereby renounce the most efficacious means of assisting, by a firm attitude, which would exclude every doubt, the speedy attainment of the object so ardently desired by the whole country—a peace offering durable guarantees against the renewal of the disturbance of established order in Europe, in a manner conformable equally to the dignity, the interests, and the position of Prussia as a Power, as also to the declarations made at the commencement of the year by the Government of your Majesty concerning its future line of policy."

"We know how to appreciate to their full extent the

difficulties of the present situation; but in the presence of those anxieties we must express the respectful conviction that, whatever may happen, we behold the most essential and the most indispensable guarantee of the future of Prussia in a firm and consistent line of policy."

PRUSSIA AND THE FORCES OF THE FEDERATION.

THE question of the mobilisation of the Federal forces, and the suspicion, openly expressed by Austria and France, that Prussia desires to create a force that shall threaten the French frontier, as a balance to the Austrian project of menacing Russia, has drawn forth from Prussia a circular dated the 8th of March, and addressed to the Prussian representatives at the different German courts. From this we cite the subjoined paragraphs:—

"You will find hereto annexed a copy of the confidential despatch which I addressed on the 2nd March to the Minister of the King at Paris. As you will find, I was led thereto by the circumstance that the attitude taken by the Envoy of the King, at the sittings of the Diet, had become the subject of criticism of a foreign government, which the government of the King considers incompatible with the dignity and independence of Germany."

"The motives of the resolution of the Diet of the 8th February are clear and evident. If, then, at a later period, it was attempted not to ignore them, but to give them another signification—in other words, if a measure, the object of which was to strengthen Germany at home and abroad, without making any demonstration for the moment, was interpreted later as a demonstration in one sense only—it was necessary in principle to contest the right of efforts made in that sense. This is what the Royal Envoy did at the German Diet. Does that constitute a demonstration in another sense? Not the least in the world. Matters would be far gone indeed in Germany if a call for the safety and independence of the German Confederation, at so threatening a moment in Europe, should be interpreted as a provocation against a foreign state, and reproached as a crime. For our part, at least, we are of the opinion that such a call was far too highly conformable to the dignity of Germany to need a corrective, and especially one resulting from treaties with which the German Confederation had nothing to do, and the practical bearing of which it does not understand at the present moment."

"We have reason to believe that many of our German allies share this view of the subject; without this, probably the motives of the resolution of the 8th February would never have been adopted either in the committees or in the Federal Assembly by a majority which borders on unanimity. If, later, a foreign interpretation had not been given to those motives, the Royal Envoy would not have found himself in the necessity of re-establishing them in their primitive generality, which did not contain a demonstration in any sense whatever."

THE WAR.

THE week, with respect to the war, has been for the most part a week of conjecture and rumour. We have been conjecturing about the Vienna conferences, and to but little purpose; and we have been conjecturing whether the Emperor Alexander will declare himself for peace or war, and a Babel of contradictory statements has been our answer. It may be said, however, that the major part of our information with respect to his acts and words goes in favour of the supposition that he will prefer the sword to the olive-branch. With respect to the condition of hostilities in the Crimea, Rumour has talked of a very grave defeat of the Turks at Eupatoria; but it appears now, even upon the showing of the Russians themselves, that the old lady has, as usual, overshot her mark, and that the affair was not nearly so serious as at first supposed. The firing of Sebastopol by the French, which we noticed last week, has also melted down very considerably; and we do not seem at present to be any nearer to the reduction of the fortress, though the *Times* correspondent hints mysteriously at pending operations.

On the other hand, the Russians are not idle, nor do they confine themselves to mere defence, but are now engaged upon forming counter-approaches towards those of the Allies, apparently with the design of besieging the besiegers. The French are said to be rather uneasy at their position over Inkermann; and our right being menaced by the Russians, the whole of the 9th division of the French army has been moved there to strengthen the position. The French attack on the Malakhoff Tower arose out of the new Russian manœuvre. It was gallantly executed, but failed.

The state of the allied camp has greatly improved; and the clothing, hutting, &c., for want of which the men perished by thousands in the winter, are now to be found in abundance. The defensive line over Balaklava has been strengthened; and

Balaklava itself is quite transformed, and, it is said, greatly improved by the progress of the railway.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

A despatch from Lord Raglan, dated March 8, has been received by Lord Panmure. We quote from it the annexed paragraphs:—

"My Lord,—The enemy continue to manifest great activity in preparing the work which I mentioned to your lordship in my despatch (No. 187), and are now bringing up platform timber and guns for the equipment and armament of it."

"Vast convoys are daily observed arriving on the north side of the town; and I learn, from information entitled to credit, that the road leading from Simphoropol is covered with waggons laden with provisions and munitions of war."

"This morning three British guns, placed in a battery overhanging the Tchernaya, opened upon two small steamers anchored at the head of the harbour, and, after a fire of about an hour, obliged them to take refuge behind a point. One of them appeared to have sustained considerable damage, and is supposed to have been deserted by her crew."

THE FRENCH ATTACK ON THE MALAKHOFF TOWER.

The subjoined is the account given by the *Daily News* correspondent:—

"Since the French have taken a share in the right attack, they have been considerably advancing the works destined to act against the shipping in the Great Harbour. To counteract this aggressive advance, and to protect the ships, the Russian engineers, with great alertness, had contrived to throw up a redoubt and covered way between the shipping and French batteries. They were extending this work across the brow of the hill by flying sap, and the intention was manifest of connecting the whole, by works across the ravine known as the Right Ravine, with the batteries around the Malakhoff or Round Tower. The enemy was thus in turn advancing upon the ground which we held in possession. The necessity was obvious of interrupting, if possible, these engineering operations."

"Between two and three o'clock A.M. on the morning of the 24th, the French force, between 4000 and 5000 strong, consisting of two battalions of the 2nd regiment of Zouaves, one battalion of the 3rd regiment of Zouaves, and a body of the Infanterie de Marine, advanced in two columns against the enemy. The night was dark, the sky being obscured by clouds, but quiet. Orders had been given that not a shot should be fired; and, to ensure this being carried out, the French general had caused all the firelocks of his men to be uncapped: they were to drive out the enemy at the point of the bayonet. After marching for some distance in front of the French advanced works, they came upon a cross ravine, running nearly east and west; this they descended, and succeeded in mounting to the opposite side without meeting any opposition. Having formed ready for the charge, they soon came upon some of the Russian sentries, who at once fired and fell back. The French troops rushed upon the work, which they entered, but the enemy was found prepared and in immense force. A tremendous fire of musketry was poured into the assailants, and kept up with wonderful steadiness and vigour. The French troops dashed against their enemies with the bayonet; but it was at once evident that the numbers opposed to them were too great to be driven away, and the order was therefore given to beat a retreat. At the same time there was a tremendous discharge of shells from the works around the Malakhoff Tower, from the lunette battery on the west side of Careening Bay, from the ships below, and also from the batteries near the Inkerman west-light. The air was illumined by the discharge and the bursting of these missiles. They were thrown in every direction along which it might be supposed reinforcements were coming to the French troops. The Russians kept up for some distance their fire of musketry, the shells and round shot passing harmlessly over their heads. The French succeeded in ascertaining the direction and nature of the work, and also destroyed it in part; but their loss has been very great. The number of casualties, in killed and wounded, is stated to be about 400."

The correspondent of the *Morning Post* says:—

"I am told that electric lights were placed on the attack as a guidance to the batteries and shipping which played on the French, among whom it caused considerable confusion—the light being thrown occasionally upon them, and then taken off, in the one case dazzling the troops, and in the other throwing them into a darkness which might almost be felt. This was very unfortunate, as the French had just imported a similar invention which was not quite ready for adoption."

The Zouaves are greatly incensed against the Marines, who retreated, it is said, with such precipitation and panic that they actually fired into the Zouaves. Rumour speaks of a disclosure of the French plan of attack by spies as one of the main causes of failure. The *Times*, in a summary of the attack, says:—

"The Russians were 10,000 strong, and the unfortunate Zouaves fell into a regular ambushade. Nevertheless, such was the dauntless valour of these troops that

they stormed the redoubt, and held one-half of it against fearful odds, when the Russians succeeded in outflanking the column; the Marines were separated from the Zouaves and driven back in all directions, and the latter were completely surrounded by the enemy. A second time they succeeded, by sheer hand-to-hand fighting, in completing the capture of the redoubt; but no sooner had the Russian infantry fallen back than the batteries and ships opened a terrific fire upon the work, and rendered it completely untenable."

A PICTURE OF BALAKLAVA.

Can anything be more suggestive of county magistry and poor laws, and order and peace, than stonebreaking? Here it goes on daily, and parties of red-coated soldiery are to be seen contentedly hammering away at the limestone rock, satisfied with a few pence extra pay. The policeman walks abroad in the streets of Balaklava. Colonel Harding, the new commandant, has exhibited great ability in the improvement of the town, and he has means at his disposal which his predecessors could not obtain. Lord Raglan is out about the camps every day, and Generals Estcourt and Airey are equally active. A little naval arsenal has grown up at the north side of the harbour, with shears, landing-wharf, and storehouses. In a fortnight more it is hoped the first engine will be at work, and it is lying all ready, with the tender and all the apparatus for pulling up the trucks beside it, at its allotted station. The harbour, crowded as it is, has assumed a certain appearance of order. The collections of rotten clothes and rags, the garments of the poor Turks, have been burnt. Cossacks have been cleared out, and the English Hercules has at last begun to stir up the heels of the oxen of Augustus. The whole of the Turks are removed to the hill-side, where they have encamped. Each day there is a diminution in the average amount of sickness, and a still greater decrease in the rates of mortality. A good sanitary officer, with an effective staff, might do much to avert the sickness which may be expected among the myriads of soldiers when the heats of spring begin. The thermometer has on an average been at 45 deg. during the day for the last three days. To-day it was at 52 deg. Fresh provisions are becoming abundant, and supplies of vegetables are to be had for the sick and scurvy-stricken. The siege works are in a state of completion, and are admirably made. Those on which our troops are now engaged proceed uninterruptedly. A great quantity of mules and ponies, with a staff of drivers from all parts of the world, have been collected together, and lighten the toils of the troops and of the Commissariat Department. The public and private stores of warm clothing exceed the demand for it. The mortality among the horses has ceased, and, though the oxen and sheep sent over to the camps would not find much favour in Smithfield, they are very grateful to those who have had to feed so long on salt junk alone. The sick are nearly all huddled, and even some of the men in those camps which are nearest to Balaklava have been provided with similar comforts and accommodation.—*Times Correspondent.*

DESIGNS OF THE RUSSIANS.

General Osten Sacken reports to the Emperor that on the night of the 10th the Russians threw up another new redoubt about 300 yards in front of the Korniloff bastion. With the redoubts on the right side of Careening Bay and above the Bay of St. George, this makes the third aggressive work of the kind constructed by the enemy before Sebastopol within seventeen days. On the 4th instant the Russians made a sortie, and attacked the French on two flanks, but were repulsed with loss. The sortie was repeated on the following morning, with the same result. The Russians are particularly energetic on the points opposite the right attack. They appear to have received reinforcements.—*Daily News.*

ALLEGED DEFEAT OF THE TURKS AT EUPATORIA.

A telegraphic summary of General Osten Sacken's report of the 6th instant, current at the beginning of last week, stated that two squadrons of Russian Lancers and 400 Cossacks had completely defeated eight squadrons of Turks near Eupatoria. We have received from St. Petersburg the text of the general's report, in which it is simply said that the outlying pickets of eight squadrons had been thus defeated, having ventured too far into the plain. The general declares that the new rockets, mentioned in Admiral Bruat's report as having set Sebastopol on fire, had scarcely done any harm, and that the general situation of affairs in the Crimea had not changed.—*Daily News.*

OPERATIONS AT KERTCH.

A despatch has been received from Sir Edmund Lyons, stating that Captain Giffard, of the Leopard, commander of the blockading squadron off Kertch, had, in conjunction with the French steamer Fulton, Captain Lebris, "captured and destroyed ten 30 cwt. 6-inch guns, and burnt seven large boats, two ranges of barrack buildings, also a quantity of military stores and provisions, near the Boghaz of the Kouban Lake, on the 2nd of February." No casualties hap-

pened to the Allies; but Captain Giffard thinks "the loss of the enemy must have been considerable." The Cossacks brought some field batteries on to the hills where they had been driven, and opened a heavy fire; but the answering fire from the ships ultimately caused them to retire behind the hills.

THE WAR IN THE CAUCASUS.

Recent accounts from the Caucasus and Georgia show that the Russians are preparing to commence the campaign. General Muraviev, the new commander of the Transcaucasian army, has just completed a tour of inspection, in which he has visited all the stations of troops. His plans of attack and the number of troops to be placed at his disposal were fixed, under the sanction of the Emperor Nicholas, before he left St. Petersburg. Important reinforcements had reached the general since his arrival in Georgia; these were two complete divisions of infantry, numbering nominally 14,000 men each, and accompanied by their artillery and four regiments of light cavalry. General Bariatski has undertaken to the Emperor to hold Schamyl and his forces in check. The *Invalide Russe* reports the first collision which has taken place this year between the Russians and Turks in Asia.—*Daily News.*

The affair, according to the Russian source from which the particulars are derived, consisted of an attack upon an entrenched camp, defended by 2000 men. The Turks, it is said, were driven from the camp, which was destroyed.

THE BALTIC AND GULF OF FINLAND.

A letter from Riga of the 11th, states that the greatest activity prevails there, a great number of men being employed in raising new fortifications both on the land and sea sides, as it is feared, from that place being the key of the provinces of Courland and Livonia, it may be the first point of attack by the allied fleets in their next Baltic campaign. The entrenched camp which existed last year is to be enlarged, to enable, in case of need, two divisions of troops to be established there. Several vessels and enormous blocks of stone will be sunk at the mouth of the Gulf, so that ships of war, however light their draught of water, will find it very difficult and dangerous to effect the passage of the Pannemunde, in order to arrive opposite the town, which is at the bottom of a small bay, and where batteries have been established in a semicircle to command every point in front. The same letter announces the arrival on the coasts of the Gulf of Finland of four regiments of Basiks, intended principally to act as videttes in time of war. A body of from 8000 to 10,000 light cavalry is expected. The organisation of the army of the Baltic, under the command of General de Sievers, advances rapidly. A part of this body, which was at first fixed at 100,000 men, but which will now be carried up to 140,000 men, has already arrived at their place of destination.—*Daily News.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE RUSSIAN FLOTILLA of row boats at Riga is being completed by the enrolment of volunteers. General De Berg has returned from Helsingfors from his journey of inspection in the north of Finland. He has caused new batteries to be constructed on different parts of the coast, and has strengthened those already existing. The battalions of Finland recently formed will shortly be completely equipped.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.—Accounts from Stockholm state that a naval conscription has been ordered for the whole of the Aland Islands. Ever since these islands were ceded by Sweden to Russia, the inhabitants have been exempted from personal servitude, which, at their request, was converted into an annual money payment. This hitherto unprecedented measure may therefore be considered another practical proof of the scarcity of men in the Russian army and navy.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—The *Morning Post* of Monday vouches for the authenticity of the following figures representing the effective English force in the Crimea on the 7th, 28th, and 27th of February:—"On the first of these days the effective strength at his lordship's disposal was 25,668 men, exclusive of the Ambulance or Mounted Staff Corps; on the second day the number was, with the same exception, 26,193 men; and on the third, the 27th of February, the very latest period to which returns have been received, the available force, not including the Royal Marines, the Ambulance Corps, the Mounted Staff Corps, or the Turks, amounted to 27,067 men." The number of sick at the last date was 17,628.

THE BALAKLAVA RAILWAY.—Lord Raglan, in his despatch dated March 3rd, says:—"The railway continues to progress satisfactorily, and we already make considerable use of it in the conveyance of stores, hutting materials, &c., as far as Kadikoi; and the electric telegraph is completed between that village and my headquarters."

THE ADVANCED OR FLYING SQUADRON, which sailed for the Baltic on Tuesday, consisted of the following ships:—Imperieuse, Buryalus, Arrogant, Tartar, Esk, Archer, and Conflict. To each of the screw line-of-

battle ships a steam gunboat is attached, and so much in manning them five additional marines have been embarked in each of these ships.

THE HOSPITALS.—The accommodation in the hospitals is progressing more or less rapidly. At the Barrack Hospital at Scutari a part of the establishment has been rendered available, and some clearance has been effected in the double rows of the lower corridor, where more than anywhere else the miserable particulars of suffering have been exposed to a painful publicity; nor can it be doubted but that the apathy of prostration and its helplessness have been largely exaggerated by lying, as we do, mere ciphers in a long series of contiguous divisions and death. In the group of buildings near Kadikoi, which may be termed in general the Palace Hospital, the detached structures are nearly all fitted up so as to render them capable of receiving in all 600 or 700 patients. A fire has taken place in the quarters at Kulules, occupied by Miss Stanley and her ladies, and was not subdued until it had destroyed their kitchen for the sick. A new kitchen for the extra diets is in progress; but even yesterday I saw a portion of the lighter food being cooked upon a brazier in the open air by one of the nurses, and the conflagration threw a great additional burden upon Miss Stanley, who was occupied great part of last week in performing culinary operations with her own hands. She is in every way unaided, having still two of her ladies down with fever, one of her "nuns" invalided, and her nurses distracted by these claims from their ordinary duties. Her effective yesterday was but three ladies besides herself, three Protestant nurses, and nine Sisters, and with this not available she was expecting the arrival ere long of some 400 sick from Balaklava.—*Times Scutari Correspondent.*

THE SUNKEN RUSSIAN SHIPS IN THE HARBOUR OF SEBASTOPOL.—Lord Raglan, in his despatch of February 27th, says:—"It appears that on Saturday night the enemy sank three or four more ships of war in the harbour, as far within the booms as the first sunken ships were outside of them; and, according to the most accurate examination yesterday, there are now four barries or impediments to the entrance of the harbour—viz, two of sunken ships and two booms." In a later despatch, dated March 3rd, his lordship writes:—"Some more ships are said to have been sunk since I wrote on the 27th." But he adds that he is not certain of this. Letters from the fleet off Sebastopol, dated the 26th and 27th ult., testify to the facts as far as the first date is concerned. One of these letters says:—"During the night of the 26th [query, the 24th?] the Russians sank three more of their line-of-battle ships and a flag inside the boom at the mouth of the harbour of Sebastopol, and, by what we can see through glasses, they appear to be making with them another barrier across the harbour, and as it appears as yet only half-way across, I suppose, when ready, they will sink some more to complete it, which will leave but two or three of the boasted Black Sea fleet. We are erecting new barries, which would have commanded their ships; so, even than see them destroyed by us, they are sinking them in the most advantageous position. That is the only conclusion we can come to."

THE HEALTH OF THE CRIMEAN ARMY.—Lord Raglan has recently transmitted to Lord Panmure a report from Dr. Hall, Inspector-General of Hospitals, with respect to the health of the troops. From this it appears that, at the date of the report (March 2nd), the sanitary condition of the army had experienced a falling off since the week of warm spring weather. Some of the regiments, however, were in a tolerable state of health; all great good is anticipated from the erection of the barracks. Dr. Hall thus summarises the chief results and expectations:—"Bowel complaints continue to be the most prevalent class of diseases; but I think they are not so serious as they were a short time ago, nor is scurvy so manifest as it was since the issue of lime juice daily as a portion of the men's rations. If the issue of fresh meat could be insured, together with vegetables and lime juice, I am quite satisfied, now that the men are warmly clad, and will soon be better sheltered, a manifest improvement would take place in their health. And if the military operations carrying on would only admit of some longer exemption from duty, a still greater improvement would be observed."

A RUSSIAN MEDAL.—On the bodies of numbers of the Russian soldiers who recently fell before Eupatoria we found the silver medal of the decoration of St. George. On one side is engraven the Russian eagle with its wings, holding in its talons the terrestrial globe and the sceptre of the sovereign; over the eagle is the imperial crown of Russia, surmounted by the illuminated cross, and round these figures is the following motto in the Russian language—"Fall on your knees, O God, for God is with us." On the other side of the medal is the following motto, also in Russian—"For the salvation of Hungary and Transylvania," which sufficiently indicates its origin.

COLONEL MAYNE, of the Bengal army, who was appointed to a cavalry command in the Turkish contingent, declines to accept it, owing, it is said, to another cavalry officer from the Queen's service (Colonel Whitley) being placed over him, under whom Colonel Mayne does not think he can be reasonably called upon to serve as an officer in question not having been actually engaged.

MOVEMENTS OF THE RUSSIANS.—A Russian officer

writes from Sebastopol to a Vienna paper, saying that the Russians are now beginning to act on the defensive, and that they receive great assistance from the Tartars, who, being disgusted with the way in which the Allies have treated the Turks, keep the Russians well informed with respect to the plans, positions, and movements of the French and English.

HANOVER.—The armament of the Hanoverian troops is proceeding rapidly, and the Confederation is called on to hasten its preparations in order efficaciously to assist Austria.

THE PIEDMONTINE CONTINGENT.—The *Malta Mail* announces that twenty-five steam vessels are expected at that island, whence they will proceed to Genoa, to take on board the Piedmontese contingent.

THE BATTALIONS OF THE FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD arrived on Tuesday by the Emperor, and numbering nearly 10,000 men, march to-day for Marseilles on their way to the East. The 21st regiment of Light Infantry, about 1900 strong, has marched from Rome, to be embarked at Civita Vecchia for the Crimea. A battery of artillery is to follow shortly.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

LATEST ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.—The *Chronicle* states that the "first point" was definitively settled at Vienna on the 21st.

The French continue to throw rockets into Sebastopol.

The bombardment is proceeding with greater vigour on the part of the Allies.

The death of Prince Menschikoff from the effects of typhus is reported, but requires confirmation.

The motion for presenting an address to the king, censuring the Ministerial policy on the Eastern question, was rejected on Wednesday in the Prussian Second Chamber. A prolongation of the credits for the expenses of the present year was voted.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, writing on March 18th, says:—"A nocturnal levy of recruits was made throughout Poland on the night of the 13th inst. The proximate cause of the death of the Emperor Nicholas was the receipt of the telegraphic despatch announcing the defeat of the Russians at Eupatoria."

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 8th, says:—"The body of the late Emperor has been for some days lying on a state bed at the Winter Palace, and the public have been admitted at certain hours to see it. The body is in the room of the Grand Duchess Olga. The embalment took place under the direction of Professors Schultz and Graber, members of the Academy of Medicine and Surgery. Since Tuesday the body of the Emperor has been covered with a large pall, edged with gold, which envelops the whole and covers the face. The decoration of the room is very simple. Three priests stand near the bed, and say mass alternately. The crowd who go to see the body is immense. They are only allowed to stop a few minutes in the room, and then pass on. Every Russian kneels near the coffin, makes the sign of the cross, and kisses the covering over the body."

When the King of Prussia received the telegraphic news of the death of his brother-in-law, he immediately sent back, as an answer, the following words from the apostrophe, addressed to his sister, the Empress:—"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." This is probably the first time that the telegraph has been used in Russia at least—to convey scraps of Scripture.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

The Pope will send an Envoy Extraordinary to St. Petersburg, to congratulate the new Emperor upon his accession to the throne. It is said that Alexander is rather a favourite at Rome; and hopes are entertained of some concessions being made by him in favour of the Roman Catholics.

On the 7th inst., the new Russian Emperor received the ambassadors who waited upon him to present their respects on his accession to the throne. Alexander is reported to have said that he was animated by the same sentiments as his father, and his uncle, the previous Emperor Alexander; that the policy of his father, which had of late been misunderstood, was a conservative policy; and that he hoped the principles of the Holy Alliance might still serve as a link between the different States, though the alliance itself had past. He then added, according to the Frankfort letter from which these assertions are derived, "For my part, I am disposed to give peace to Europe if honourable terms are offered to Russia; but if the conditions are dishonourable, I prefer perishing to accepting them."

A letter from St. Petersburg, quoted by the *Times* Paris correspondent, says that the Emperor Alexander has addressed the following words to the nobility:—"I solemnly declare that I will not give up a single inch of Russian territory to our enemies. I will take good care to prevent their penetrating further on the soil of our country; and never, never—may my hand wither first—I will I swear my signature to a treaty which shall bring the slightest dishonour on the nation."

The *Donaus* has a letter of the 15th of March from Poland, which contains some curious information. Not only are the troops and *employés* obliged to take the oaths of fealty to the new Monarch, but also all the inhabitants of the kingdom. The latter have to appear en masse in the church of the parish to which they belong, and there to swear to be faithful to Alexander II. and the Hereditary Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovitch. By special order of Government the young people attending all the schools at Warsaw are to take the oath of fealty at the hands of M. Muchanoff, the inspector of the Warsaw school district.

Accounts from the Pireus, of the 3rd, via Marseilles, announce that M. Mavrocordato has tendered his resignation, which, it is said, has been accepted by King Otho. Turkish troops have been concentrated at Monastir. Austria is said to have announced that she will interfere to put down any insurrectional movement in Greece.

From Denmark we learn that the committee of the Volkething has presented to that assembly a bill impeaching the late ministry for exceeding the budget. The King is convalescent, and no more bulletins will be issued.

A decree has been issued at Brussels, prohibiting the re-exportation of military and naval arms, when the same are destined for Russia.

A letter from Frankfurt, of the 14th, in the *Moniteur*, says:—"At one of the last sittings of the Diet, M. de Bismark, replying to the communications of the Austrian plenipotentiary relative to the effective military strength of that power, made use of remarks which did not evince a very favourable disposition towards the policy of the allied powers. M. de Bismark has since been disavowed, and blamed by his government. Prussia, moreover, declares that she does not demand that the Austrian contingent shall remain on the federal territory, and that she does not think of having the fortresses of Luxembourg and Metz armed."—The disavowal of M. de Bismark's language has been contradicted by the *Preussische Correspondenz*.

The Turkish Sultan refuses to recognise the Hellenic nationality of Rayahs who adopt the Greek protection. These men have been naturalized in Greece, since 1836, for the purpose of carrying on trade in Turkey without being amenable to the Turkish law; but the Porte, still considering them as subjects of Turkey, will not consent to waive its authority.

A ship with the submarine telegraph is hourly expected at Constantinople; and on its arrival no time will be lost in laying down the wires from Kamiesch to Varna. The French are employed in the construction of the land telegraph from Varna to Rustchuk, whence it will be carried on to Bucharest, there to join the great European system. A branch is also being made from Constantinople to Shumla, to join the former line at Rustchuk, so that in a few weeks the communication will be open from this capital to London and Paris, and intelligence will be carried within a few hours. At present the shortest time is six days, and this is only possible when the fair weather leaves the wretched tracks called roads in a state to allow the passage of a Tartar's horse.—*Times Correspondent.*

The *Moniteur* of Monday publishes a letter from Jassy, announcing that the electric telegraph was opened between that town and Czernowitz on the 26th of February.

Letters from Bayonne of the 15th mention the great damage caused by the inundations in the Pyrenees. The Bidassoa has done its part in sweeping away the bridges of Behobia. The Nive has completely submerged Lower Cambo, and has inundated a part of Bayonne; and most of the houses on the quays have had water to the first floor. It is not said whether any lives were lost, but great injury has been done to property.

Advices received from Nyborg, under date of March 14, describe the ice in the Belt as still fast, not a bit of open water to be seen, and from 3 to 4 degrees of frost. At Frederickshaven the sea was covered with ice as far as the eye could reach; the light vessels at the mouth of the Weser and Cuxhaven had returned to their stations. Later accounts, however, state that the ice in the Baltic is loosening.

On the 14th a motion was brought forward in the Spanish Cortes, to the effect that instead of the motion of M. Olozaga declaring the Senate elective, three-fifths of its members should be elected and the rest be nominated by the Crown; but after a discussion this was rejected by 135 votes to 67. Orders have been sent to annihilate the Carlist band which has appeared in the Sierra de Burgos.

At the audience which M. de Wedell had with the French Emperor, the subject of the treaty was talked of, and the Prussian Envoy was given to understand that in the formal invitation to be addressed to his Government should be introduced words implying that Prussia accepted engagements on entering the Conference—in short, that in the preamble should be set forth, if not in direct terms, at least in terms equally significant, that obligation. M. de Wedell declared that, though he himself did not see any harm in such preliminary engagement, his powers did not extend so far as to accept it, and that he should demand what I believe he termed "supplementary instructions" from the King. The Emperor was friendly and cordial as before, and M. de

Wedell quitted him with the assurance that he should soon have to see him again, and that he should hear from him through the Minister for Foreign Affairs.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

The journey of the Emperor to the Crimea continues to be talked of; but the probability of such a step decreases every day. Nevertheless, gossip has gone so far as to say that the Imperial hat has been constructed. We now also hear talk of a visit of the Emperor and Empress to the Queen at Osborne.

The ministerial crisis in Belgium, which has lasted as long as our own, and caused as much perplexity, seems not yet to have reached its end. After many abortive attempts at the construction of a ministry, the last of which only lived a day, the country still remains without a cabinet. The Chamber is convoked for Monday next.

Doctor Véron having in the last volume of his *Mémoires* described a meeting at the house of M. Thiers in 1851, at which M. de Morny and General Changarnier were present, and the project of a royalist coup d'état against the Assembly discussed, a note appeared in *La Presse*, formally and explicitly denying the whole story, and treating it as a pure fabrication. To this Doctor Véron replied in the same journal, that he had not printed such statements without the best authority. M. Thiers then broke silence to give an absolute contradiction. Doctor Véron requested M. de Morny to corroborate his statements, and M. de Morny at once replied that the doctor had written nothing that was not literally correct. M. Thiers writes again, simply maintaining a flat denial; and General Changarnier, writing from Malines, repudiates the veracity of the author of *Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris*, and of M. de Morny, and insists that only "the honourable M. Thiers" has spoken the truth.

M. Berryer has declined to conform with the Academic custom, and to present himself to the Chief of the State. He sent a dignified letter to the Emperor's private secretary, M. Mocquart, appealing to his kindness to intercede with his master for the omission of the usual ceremony, as in his case "it might be painful not to himself alone." M. Mocquart expresses in reply the Emperor's regrets that M. Berryer's political impulses should have got the better of his Academic duties; the Emperor from his lofty position would have seen in M. Berryer the orator only, and in the adversary of to-day the advocate of fifteen years since; but that M. Berryer is at liberty to consult his own feelings.

The lectures of M. Sainte Beuve, who was appointed Professor of Latin Poetry at the College of France by M. Fortoul, the present Minister of Public Instruction, have been discontinued. At his inaugural lecture the Professor was hissed and groaned at from the moment he began to talk of that "great prince who defends the liberal arts at home, and the flag of France abroad." When he talked of his principles, there was a cry of "Which? Your principles of 1830, of 1848, or of to-day?" It was impossible for the lecturer to proceed, and he was compelled to call in the assistance of the police to clear the room, that he might continue his address to almost empty benches. It had been the original intention of the students to drown the Professor's voice with derisive applause, but honest indignation, or as M. Mocquart would say, "political inspirations," got the better of their discretion. The closing of the course of lectures so inauspiciously begun was a question of common morality. M. Sainte Beuve had so cynically expressed his contempt for principle in politics, that the "youth of the schools," not yet extinct in France, were glad to find, could not repress their disgust, and M. Sainte Beuve, we may hope, is now definitively shelved. This movement of the students is significant of the revival of public spirit in France, and it corroborates the tenor of all our correspondence which describes the situation as growing daily worse for the government. The war creates discontent and anxiety. The news from the Crimea is unsatisfactory, commerce languishes, and the hostility to the Napoleonic régime increases daily among the bourgeoisie upon whom, after all, the stability of the government depends. There have been very numerous arrests in Paris of late. It may be doubted whether, under these circumstances, Louis Napoleon will persist in going to the seat of war, though his friends persist in saying that he will. On the whole, he is generally considered to be "on the decline," and we are as little surprised as sorry to hear it.

The *Augsburg Gazette* says:—"Austria has declared to the Western Powers (*par une note obligatoire*) that if the Conferences should not result in the re-establishment of peace, the situation provided for by article 5 of the treaty of the 2nd of December would be in force."

CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE despatch of the American ambassadors present at the conference of Ostend, signed by Messrs. Buchanan and Mason, the American ministers at London and Paris, and by Mr. Soule, late American minister at Madrid, has been published in the New York papers. This document has reference to the acquisition of Cuba, the purchase of which is recommended on the ground of its geographical position (which commands the commerce of the rivers discharging into the Gulf of Mexico), and out of an

apprehension that it may become "a second St. Domingo" by being "Africanised," and thus threaten the United States with a similar danger. The despatch remarks:

"The inhabitants of Cuba are now suffering under the worst of all possible governments—that of absolute despotism delegated by a distant power to irresponsible agents, who are changed at short intervals, and who are tempted to improve the brief opportunity thus afforded to accumulate fortunes by the basest means. As long as this system shall endure, humanity may in vain demand the suppression of the African slave-trade in the island. This is rendered impossible whilst that infamous traffic remains an irresistible temptation and a source of immense profit to needy and avaricious officials, who, to attain their ends, scruple not to trample the most sacred principles under foot."

The writers add that, if the Cubans should rise in revolt, "no human power could prevent the citizens of the United States from rushing to their assistance. It is not improbable, therefore, that Cuba may be wrested from Spain by a successful revolution." Messrs. Buchanan, Mason, and Soule, however, prefer acquiring it by purchase; and they assert that the money which America would be inclined to pay would be of the utmost benefit to Spain, and, by enabling her to create railways, would greatly add to her prosperity. They then remark:—

"After we shall have offered Spain a price for Cuba, far beyond its present value, and this shall have been refused, it will then be time to consider the question—Does Cuba, in the possession of Spain, seriously endanger our internal peace and the existence of our cherished Union? Should this question be answered in the affirmative, then, by every law, human and divine, we shall be justified in wresting it from Spain if we possess the power; and this upon the very same principle that would justify an individual in tearing down the burning house of his neighbour, if there were no other means of preventing the flames from destroying his own home."

Mr. Secretary Marcy, in his reply, addressed to Mr. Soule, directs that minister to ascertain whether official and influential men in Spain are in favour of the project or averse to it. In the latter case, "it will be too evident that the time for opening, or attempting to open, such a negotiation has not arrived. Mr. Marcy, though desiring the cession of the island, does not think that a refusal on the part of Spain would be attended by those dangers to which Mr. Soule had referred; and he concludes as follows, referring to the case of the Black Warrior and other alleged injuries to the citizens of the United States:

"If the feelings of Spain towards this country are such as she professes—if she desires to perpetuate the relations of peace with the United States—she will yield to our first demands on this subject. Direct diplomatic intercourse, by an agent of the United States with the Captain-General of Cuba, for the mere purpose of presenting grievances, will not meet the exigencies of the case. The Captain-General must be under an efficient responsibility to redress the wrongs to our citizens, committed by his subordinates, when brought to his notice. I have indicated what ought to be accomplished by such an arrangement. Should there be no hope of opening a negotiation for the acquisition of Cuba, you will then present to the Government of Spain the importance of some arrangement for future security in regard to our trade and intercourse with Cuba, and state to her the object to be secured by it. If she professes a willingness to make such an arrangement, a plan in detail will be forwarded to you for the purpose of being laid before her Government. In resuming negotiations with Spain you will in a firm but respectful manner impress upon the Ministry, that it is the determination of the President to have all the matters in controversy between her and the United States speedily adjusted. He is desirous to have it done by negotiation, and would exceedingly regret that a failure to reach the end he has in view in this peaceful way should devolve upon him the duty of recommending a resort to coercive measures to vindicate our national rights and redress the wrongs of our citizens."

In consequence of this communication, Mr. Soule has resigned, as he saw no prospect for his diplomacy but that of "continuing to linger in languid impotence."

THE EARTHQUAKE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The earthquake which has broken in upon the apathy of our Turkish allies in the midst of their capital, has been more alarming than serious. Several successive shocks were felt, the first being at five minutes past three in the afternoon of February 28. This lasted about half a minute. The motion is described as "a sharp, rapid trembling." Between three and five o'clock no less than six shocks were counted; two followed between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, and one a little before midnight. All these shocks were slight, with the exception of the one which occurred at ten minutes past seven, and which produced the utmost consternation and some damage.

"The lower animals," says the *Times* Constantinople correspondent from whom we derive these facts, "seem to have had some feeling of what was about to happen for several seconds before it was felt by human beings. Horses, both in the streets and stables, stood still and trembling for some time before the shock was felt; for some minutes after, they were in great terror, and in certain cases they were also aware of the minor shocks which escaped the notice of human creatures. The motion was chiefly felt in the upper rooms of houses. Pera is situated on a hill, and the higher stories of some of its lofty buildings are at no small elevation above the level of the sea. In these rooms glasses were thrown off the tables, and persons who were standing were obliged to sit down or to cling for support to some fixed object. The motion is described by one who happened to have mounted to the top of Galata Tower as that of a ship in a gale. No report has reached me of any serious destruction of property or loss of life, but the buildings which have been injured are not a few. The British Embassy is one of the most solid edifices in the country; but, being constructed at the summit of the Pera-hill, it was exposed to the full violence of the shock. A stack of its massive chimneys was thrown down, and the large square stones of which the walls are constructed are said to have been displaced in certain parts. Every bell in the palace rang violently, and even in one or two churches the still larger masses of metal resounded dully. A number of minarets in Stamboul and Pera have been thrown down—whether with any loss of life I have not learnt. The large iron chimney of the building where the French bread is baked was broken short off by the shock. The bazaars are said to have been cracked in several places. The motion increased in intensity during several seconds, and for a moment before its cessation it certainly seemed as if the house was coming down. The building seemed to be struck from without, and the feeling was as when two vessels come into collision. The motion then ceased abruptly."

The correspondent of the *Daily News* says that a manufactory was completely destroyed, and that a school, containing one hundred and fifty children, was thrown to the ground, burying the children in the ruins.

The lower classes were exceedingly frightened, and the Mahometans rushed out of their houses, and crouched down in their attitude of prayer. A letter from Broussa reports that the ancient Greek cathedral was entirely overthrown; that the cupola of the grand mosque is cracked; that some Turkish buildings on the edge of a cliff occupied by the citadel tumbled over, killing twenty-two or twenty-three persons who were in it at the time, and crushing several houses, with their inmates, situated beneath; and that from the ruins a fire burst out at night, which destroyed five houses. The loss of life is supposed to amount to some hundreds.

Advices from Constantinople, up to March 12th, published in a German paper, mention that shocks of earthquake still continued; that the sulphurous springs at Broussa had been dried up; and that Mount Olympus vomited smoke like a volcano.

SPEECH OF CARDINAL WISEMAN ON THE WAR.

CARDINAL WISEMAN delivered on Tuesday evening, at St. Martin's Hall, a Lecture "On the Future Historian's View of the Present War," from which we derive the subjoined eloquent passages:—

"The future historian might say that, during forty years of peaceful slumber, England had not thought of providing against the casualties of war—that she had sought only to improve the tranquillity of her rest—that she had cultivated the arts of peace—that she had been anxious to improve the education of her people—that she had squandered her wealth in compensation to obtain the liberation of her slaves from bondage, and, instead of saving her revenues for war, that she had been trying the greatest experiment in commerce, and successfully too, that the world had ever seen. (*Cheers.*) Instead of hoarding up her wealth against future necessities, she had been endeavouring to relieve the burdens of her people, and looking upon the peace she enjoyed as the child, and not the parent, of war. . . . Having described the origin of the war, the historian might allude to Russia having extended her huge length across two quarters of the globe, that, whilst her head was surrounded with a diadem of icicles, one side was deeply indented in the silken beds of China, and the other rested upon icebound regions unassailable and inaccessible, and that her only part which was at all vulnerable, like that of Achilles, was her Crimean heel, which pressed upon the neck of Turkey, and that, too, encased not only in threefold, but tenfold, steel. . . . To the historian, the question would naturally arise, What was the cause of the difference in the position of the French and English armies? If the historian, in his endeavours to discover the cause of our misfortunes, were to look back at the history of other nations, he could not fail to be struck by the fact that, in the most brilliant periods of their existence, they had been ruled by one individual, and guided by one head. Such was the case with Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, Charles V. of Germany, Peter the Great,

Charles of Sweden, and, not to come to nearer times, Louis XIV., whom poets so far deified as to say that "he ruled without a Minister, and saw with his own eyes." The principle here referred to had never, however, existed in this country to any extent—there always having been an extreme jealousy of individual power. There was no point of government in which contest had risen so early as those which gave rise to the struggles with regard to who should have the control of the army. Richard I., Henry III., and the First Edwards, were surrounded by their guards, not, however, without exciting jealousy; so it was with their successors, Edward III. and the Second Richard, with this difference, that bowmen were substituted for their mace-bearers. This was looked upon with jealousy, and led to a protest from Parliament on the subject. During the time of the Stuarts, an essentially despotic race, no efforts were made on the part of the people to thwart their monarchs. As soon, however, as a difficulty arose between Parliament and Charles I., from the wish of the Long Parliament to extend its power, then this jealousy again exhibited itself. This laid the foundation for the power of Cromwell, and even that was watched with jealousy; for, when he had secured the person of Charles, he was called upon to disband his army to 5000 foot. He then, however, became involved in war, at the conclusion of which he was once more called upon, by the remnant of a Parliament that existed, to disband his army; and this led to his declaring himself Protector."

The Cardinal afterwards alluded to the want of business men in our army, which consists chiefly of nobles and of the lowest class; and he spoke highly of the noble letters written home from the camp by rough and humble privates. He also alluded to the French army system, which gives a chance of promotion to every deserving man, and mentioned that it is no uncommon thing in France to meet the son of a nobleman in the uniform of a common soldier, the nobleman being well aware that his son will rise if he deserve to do so.

"They were told, and the experience of the past campaign had proved it, that the English had no commissariat service sufficiently amalgamated with the army, running side by side with it, as might be said—it being so ill-defined that no one appeared to know how it should co-operate with the action of the army, or by what method it might be best brought to bear to supply its wants. The French, on the contrary, had a well-defined 'intendant corps.' This body was organised fully in the year 1843, before any expectation could be entertained of the present war, and whilst the country was at peace. . . . They had heard how the Government of this country had endeavoured to obtain surgical assistance, and how the hospitals had been canvassed and medical men treated and implored to go to the seat of war. The question naturally arose why that want had not been foreseen, and why the medical staff had not been properly organised during a time of peace. In France it had been so as long since as 1836, and the most rigid and minute details had been laid down for the regulation of their hospital staff in war as well as in peace, those regulations being comprised in a thick octavo volume of 500 pages. . . . It was to the introduction of the additional class—the middle, the business class—he thought they must look for a remedy; and, in drawing a contrast between what had and what might have been done, the historian would refer to the progress made by the railway at Balaklava. . . . This was an iron age, because iron had been made subservient to their wants, and hastened their speed to the end of their journey. There were, no doubt, those present who could call to mind the being suddenly aroused from a deep and quiet slumber upon arriving by train at the station of some neat town. At the first moment all would appear confused and without form. Then, upon looking around, they would see piles of luggage which would not disgrace the landing-place at Balaklava. They would hear loud exclamations from those seeking for places or endeavouring to find their luggage. All would appear confusion and misery. In the next moment the word would be given, the train would be off, the confusion would no longer be apparent. On looking back, nothing would be left to view but the lights of the station, still burning clear and distinct. As the distance increased, those lights would become lessened and concealed, until they gradually appeared as one single light, and then mingled with the stars of the heavens. So would the historian in future days, when looking back upon the scenes that had passed, see Alva, Balaklava, and Inkerman, as bright lights on the page of history—lights which would be intercepted by others equally as brilliant, until they resolved themselves in one single constellation, and seemed as a fixed star in the firmament of England's glory."

THE FAST DAY.

THE day of "Fast, Humiliation, and Prayer" has come and gone; the Privy Council have had their whim; Church and Sect have severally pointed out our national sins and the infallible roads to righteousness (roads lying very far apart from one another, and sometimes playing at terrible cross purposes); and, as a consequence, we may consider ourselves a step nearer Heaven—and the conquest of Sebastopol.

The daily papers smugly observe that the day was kept with great gravity and decorum; and, if by this it be simply meant that the spirit of religious reverence inherent in the English mind forbade any outrage even upon the external show of piety, for the sake of the sincerity of those who recognise in Fast days some higher law than that of Privy Councils, we will not dispute the fact. We are not, indeed, aware of any extra debauchery, in the worst sense of the word, on Wednesday; but, as far as the metropolis is concerned, we take strong exception to the allegation of gravity. The general aspect of London was not that of "humiliation" or austere denial, but rather of holiday-making and enjoyment. The myriads poured forth, from shop and warehouse, from work-room and office (Belgrave was rolling to and from church in luxuriously stuffed carriages, since, having so much holiday time, it can afford, once in a way, to be severely plumed) poured forth, not in sackcloth and ashes, but in Sunday suits and jaunty trim; not with faces of "humiliation," according to Court order, but with jocular looks, intent upon a few hours' relief from the sleepless dragon of work. The chief thoroughfares were more than usually full; the gallant guardsmen, with their girls upon their arms, sauntered along in full costume, and in all the bravery of their bear-skin caps—thinking, perhaps, of their suffering comrades far away, but certainly not otherwise "humiliated;" boys played at cricket in the parks, "in unimproved pleasures free;" and we are aware of small dinner parties and extempore dancing parties having been got up on the spur of the occasion. The shops, it is true, were more strictly closed even than on Sunday; but we doubt if the shop-keepers were fasting, or in any way greatly mortifying themselves. As a consequence of the late Beer Bill, the public-houses were closed at the same hours as on Sundays; but the dining-rooms continued open throughout the day, and in their several compartments the fasters feasted merrily—entering with the look of men who had got time to enjoy themselves, and going out again unctuous and sleek with feeding.

In the morning, as on the previous evening, a curious exhibition of our national piety was to be seen, or rather heard, in the public ways. Men of the costermonger class, rough and dirty from the back alleys, and unwashed, pallid boys and girls from ditto—pariahs who, probably, have no conception of the nature of prayer, or only know to scoff at it—vociferated from the kerbstones, "The new Form of Prayer for the Fast Day—only one penny!" much in the same manner as they would offer you a bill of the play. Verily it may be said that Piety cried in the open streets: are we to add that no man regarded her?

Doubtless, however, under our present darkened and truly "humiliating" circumstances, the day was not without its solemn and sincerely pious thoughts and aspirations. As a specimen of these, we append the following extracts from the chief sermons preached in London. The *Leader* has already expressed its disagreement with "Humiliation ex-officio;" but it is pleasant to find the occasion in a measure redeemed by the partial good sense (not unmixed, however, with conventionality) of those whose especial province it is to take it as their text:—

THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY, BEFORE THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—We might agree in the judgment which had been affirmed with such remarkable unanimity, that the war in which we are now engaged, is a just and necessary war. This remark he put in the very front of his discourse because a different judgment would introduce into the subject of our national humiliation other elements than those which now belonged to it. The justice and the necessity of the war did not, however, strip it of its many horrors, its present perils, and its uncertain and most eventful issues; and, instead of lessening or retarding, should increase, quicken, and confirm our endeavours to obtain success, and to secure the restoration of peace. Whatever skill, and genius, and prudence, and forethought, and manly energy could effect towards these ends should be accomplished. The deep conviction of the nation's heart, that the struggle was just and necessary, made such a duty only the more imperative; and he should indeed have a rich theme for his discourse if it were his office to insist upon this to-day, and to help to further in any degree the one hearty desire of this great empire, that every means should be used to bring its efforts to a successful issue. But his part was rather to carry his hearers beyond secondary courses to the ordaining will of God.

THE REV. HENRY MELVILL AT ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER, BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—We entered on this war with no selfish purpose. We saw Europe already darkened by the shade of a colossal Power, which was ever pushing forward its boundary; and it was not for England to sit tamely by while country after country lost its independence. If we had had no fears for ourselves—if we could not contemplate the probability that the advancing tide would break on our own shores—at least it was in our charter not to suffer the weak to be borne down by the strong. Therefore did we gird ourselves for the contest. It was no war of ambition or of aggrandisement. We took up

the championship of the oppressed; and if we looked beyond the immediate case, it was that we saw the world's liberties in peril, and resolved, ere too late, to make a stand for civilisation, for enlightenment, for human progress and human happiness. . . . They had assembled there that day to confess the hand of the Almighty in the calamities with which we had been visited, and to beseech of Him that, in His own good time, He would vouchsafe to us "a secure and prosperous peace." They were not in that place, at least, to look at second causes, but meekly and submissively to own that, whether or not we had done all that might have been done towards procuring success, we had been smitten of God, to whom human errors, as well as human triumphs, were but instruments for furthering His will. But, at the same time, we ought thankfully to acknowledge that there were many bright points in an otherwise dark picture. The war, for example, had set before the world the noble spectacle of two great nations, long separated by jealousies and rivalries, laying aside ancestral enmities, and combining in the cause of civilisation and freedom. All honour to our brave allies! It was a fine augury for the interests of our race that France was one with England in resisting oppression. Then, again, there was the evidence of a better education, of a wider diffusion of enlarged and religious sentiments than one had ventured to look for. Why, many of the published letters of our privates would do credit to the heads and the hearts of men trained by all the processes of a refined Christian instruction. Above all, the war had called forth one fine and noble trait; it had shown that numbers of the weaker sex, though born to wealth and bread in luxury, were ready to renounce every comfort and to brave every hardship that they might minister to the suffering, tend the wounded in their agony, and soothe the last struggles of the dying. God bless them in this their heroic mission—it might almost be said, in their heroic martyrdom!—for, in walking those long lines of sick beds, in devoting themselves to all the ghastly duties of a hospital, they were doing a harder thing than had been allotted to many who had mounted the scaffold or dared the stake. . . . There recently came sudden tidings to England; with 'bated breath' men whispered them one to the other—they seemed almost incredible, and yet they were authentic. The potentate who had been foremost in this contest, the man who stood out from the rest of his race, the most conspicuous, perhaps, in power, in energy, in strength of will, in firmness of purpose, in sweep of enterprise—he was dead,—dead, with countless squadrons waiting his bidding,—dead, with convulsed kingdoms watching his throes,—dead, while a whole world, it might almost be said, was being shaken by his tread. Then, who would presume to count upon to-morrow? At once, lest death overtake us, let each resolve to be a better patriot by being a better Christian.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AT ST. PAUL'S.—Was there not one topic of self-abasement directly arising out of the circumstances that had given cause for this solemn act of humiliation? Had we not reason for self-reproach in the secure and overweening pride and self-confidence which we had exhibited? Did we enter on the struggle in which we are engaged, in humble reliance on the over-ruling power and mercy of our God? Did we not rather manifest something of vainglory? How loudly did we boast of our inexhaustible resources—of the number and bravery of our naval and military armaments, that were to rival, if not surpass, the glories of Trafalgar and Waterloo! And, now, how were we shorn of our strength? How little did we think of the instruments by which the Almighty had disappointed our eager anticipations? How little did we think of the unknown power and resources of the foe—of the imperfections of our own system of warfare? Of that noble and high-minded band of men who went forth amid the cheers and plaudits of this country to fight our battles in a distant land, how many thousands lie festering in the shallow trenches of the Crimea, or in the waters that wash its shores?

A VISION BEFORE A FAST.

I DREAMT last night that the Man in the Moon
(In dreams my particular crony)
Dropt in to spend a long forenoon,
So he begged I'd go out, as a very great boon,
And act as his Cicerone.
You see he's Prime Minister up *chez lui*,
And tho' they're at peace, he had come to see
How we managed our martial labours;
For, like a wise statesman, he said he knew
That tho' statesmen be ever so wise, there are few
Who might not take a hint from their neighbours.
He shouldered his sticks and he whistled his dog;
I gave him my arm and forth we jog:
Said I, "You must understand,
That to-day we are holding a solemn Fast,
Which we hope will pay up for the sins of the past,
And leave us a balance in hand."

Then methought we stood by a portal wide,
Where carriages clustered about;
Fair dames were waiting their turn inside,
Grave gentlemen stepping out.
We took our place with the pious throng,
And into the church we were borne along.
A clergyman preached—but he spoke of no wrong,

Tho' much of the judgments of Heaven:
How was sent for the sins of mankind—
How famine and pestilence stalked behind—
Then he dwelt on "rebukes" of wave and wind
With a sentimental leaven.
He begged that his hearers would fast and pray,
And humble themselves that particular day,
Then probably Heaven might deign to stay
The ill that its wrath had given.
My friend with the sticks looked rather perplexed;
For me, I was thinking, instead of the text,
Of a sentence of doubtful gentility:
As lords and ladyships outward prest,
I whispered, "The pride that the Devil loves best,
Is the pride that apes humility."

I suppose I went off in an absent way,
For my friend with a nudge began to say—
"Now, tell me the meaning of all this pother?
It has, I presume, some meaning or other?"
"Well then—you know we're a very great nation—
But tho' we may boast of our information,
We make a mistake here and there.
Our governing classes don't quite know their trade,
And a few insignificant blunders they've made
Have cost us many a good brigade.
As for beggarly millions—who'd care?
With fleets and navies that rule the main,
And merchants that girdle the globe for gain,
We have left, unclothed in the pelting rain,
Our bravest to spend their lives in vain,
Tho' their spoil no enemies share.
And when we would ask the reason why,
A chorus of gentlemen raise the cry—
'There's no one to blame—not I—nor I!
Do ye dare to insist? Then we'll say good by!'
So they call the nation to prayer!"
"By my lady's horns and their golden tips,"
Said the Man in the Moon, "if we made such alips,
We should pray for a speedy lunar eclipse
And hide our humility there!
I will give you a little advice, if I may—
Be counselled—and try a better way:
First sweep and garish—then go and pray,
And Heaven may, perchance, give heed.
But he who raises his unwashed hands,
And supplicates Heaven to cleanse them, stands
Small chance of a blessing at need!"
My friend had flourished, while thus he spoke,
A stick from his bundle, which suddenly broke,
And I, with a start, as sudden awoke.
Was it all but a dream, indeed? Q.

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.

THE state of the country, speaking generally, is decidedly more cheerful than it has been for many weeks past; yet considerable depression still exists in different localities, and the reduction of workmen's wages in several branches of trade is contemplated.

The iron trade of South Staffordshire exhibits some degree of improvement; American orders are becoming more numerous; and there is an increase in the home trade. Nevertheless, prices are still so low, in comparison with the state of the markets a year or a year and a half since, that a fall in the price of labour is talked of, and by some considered inevitable. The coalmasters have held a meeting at Stourbridge for the purpose of reducing colliers' and miners' wages, and notices will be forthwith given accordingly. As a matter of course, the price of coal will fall in proportion. The step is taken, as it is stated, to meet the condition of the iron trade, and not in consequence of any particular falling off in the demand for coal. The colliers will be reduced 1s. per day, and stonemen 9d. The reduction of wages and the suspension of work is not confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Staffordshire, but extends to the iron districts of Shropshire. The workmen employed in the collieries of the Madeley Wood Company have had notice of reduction to the extent of 6d. per day, and those employed in the extensive iron works of the Coalbrookdale Company, at the Horsehayes, have received notice of a reduction of ten per cent. In the Potteries of North Staffordshire the same process is in operation. The failures in the iron trade, to which allusion was made last week, have not led to any further serious results. The copper market remains extremely firm, and, according to the statements of practical men, is likely to continue so. The article is scarce, and the demand improving. At Bloxwich there are good orders for locks, and the business of the neighbourhood is stated to be decidedly improving. Within the last fortnight the demands from factors have been much larger than for some time past. The same may be said of the trade of Willenhall. The staple trade of the district is looking up. At Walsall the saddlers' ironmongery trade is somewhat flat, but in that town and in Birmingham military orders are brisk. The makers of agricultural implements represent themselves as busy in every branch. At present, however, the retail tradesmen of Birmingham describe their various businesses across the counter as

had beyond all precedent. The advent of mild spring weather has improved the condition of the working classes, and the pauper pressure in Birmingham has now greatly diminished.

From Manchester we learn that at the close of last week the cloth-market was much depressed, and that the recently obtained advance in the price of some kinds of yarns has been lost, though in other kinds the demand is still brisk.

The late improvement in the demand for lace and hosiery at Nottingham has not been maintained; and an equal depression in the same branch of manufacture is noticeable at Leicester, where, however, the wool market is firm. At Leeds, the woollen-cloth trade is improving, and the reports from several of the manufacturing villages of the West Riding are cheering. The linen trade at Barnsley has for some time past been very dull, and the flax-spinning trade at Leeds is still so; but it is thought that for the former a better day is near at hand.

Intelligence from Belfast says that there is increased activity in the sales of linen, flax, and cotton in the North of Ireland.

The strike of Lord Vernon's colliers still continues. The turn-outs hold meetings daily, at which violent language against the "knobsticks" is indulged in. A few of the turn-outs have returned to their work, but there is no immediate prospect of the strike coming to an end. Some of the colliers have left the neighbourhood, and gone to look for employment elsewhere. The neighbouring colliers are subscribing for the support of the turn-outs, about forty of the principal of whom have been served with notices to leave their cottages.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

The mortality of London is still high; the deaths which had fallen from 1560 to 1877 in the previous week again rose last week to 1425. The mean weekly temperature was 40.8 deg. in the beginning of March, higher by 14 deg. than it had been in the latter half of February. It fell to 36 deg., and in the week that has now passed it was 38.5 deg. From natural causes, as well as from the circumstance that deaths are not always registered as soon as they occur, the consequences of a change of temperature in one week are only developed in the returns of the week following, or at a later period. The return shows that 169 persons died above the estimated number.

Diseases of the respiratory organs were fatal in 339 cases, whilst the average is 260; besides these, phthisis numbers 160, whooping-cough 76, and influenza 9.

Last week the births of 906 boys and 873 girls, in all 1779 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1537.

FALL OF A BRIDGE AT BRISTOL.

A very alarming catastrophe took place at Bristol on Tuesday morning, at about ten o'clock. A steam-barge, worked by a screw-propeller, and having an engine of six-horse power, was descending the river Avon when she came in contact with the iron framework of the bridge, which rests on piers. The force of the collision was so great, that, notwithstanding the power of a very strong ebb tide, the steamer rebounded eight or ten feet, and the bridge immediately fell, carrying everything that was on it. Several persons passing at the time, and two carts, were thrown into the river. Three or four of the people swam to the banks, and were got out alive; but several are missing, and a few horses were drowned.

The cause of the collision is differently stated; by some it is said that the barge was coming down under full steam, the tide also running fast; while the engineer asserts that by the captain's order he was reversing some time before they reached the bridge, but the current (it had been the high St. David's flood) was irresistible. The captain of the barge has been arrested.

Several very narrow escapes took place. Two men were talking at the end of the bridge, one being just off. On the bridge giving way, the man who was just on disappeared, and was drowned, while the other remained on the brink of the chasm. A gentleman in a gig pulled up at the very moment that the bridge was sinking a few feet before him; and the same thing happened to foot passengers. Only two persons are as yet known to be drowned.

A letter, under the signature of "One who fell with the Bridge," appears in the *Times* of Thursday. We derive from it the following additional particulars:—

"When the barge was about fifty yards from the bridge, I distinctly heard the captain give orders to reverse the engines, and every exertion was made to prevent the collision; long poles were put out to endeavour to push her off from the shore, but all efforts were then too late; the men seemed to have lost all control over her. She came down in an oblique direction. I heard the captain cry out, 'Oh dear, oh dear!' and in a

few seconds afterwards the right bow of the barge struck the end of the bridge, on the Bristol side of the stream. At this time I was standing just in the middle of the bridge, little thinking that it would not withstand the shock, when the bridge immediately sank, bearing lightly towards the railway. We descended at a frightful pace, and I was hurled headlong into the water, together with several others who were crossing at the time. Whether the bridge was in a good state of repair I know not, but I have since heard that one of the authorities had either refused to cross it, or said that he did not like to do so, shortly before the accident occurred, when there was a large waggon upon it, because he considered the bridge unsafe. Should this, however, be the case, great blame is attached to the authorities for allowing so frail a structure to remain there."

The bridge was of cast-iron, and was erected in the years between 1805 and 1809. It consisted of only one arch, and was one hundred and sixty feet in span. In 1808, owing to some defects in the stonework on which it rested, it fell, and either killed or severely injured thirty-two persons.

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST LORD CLANRICARDE.

LORD CLANRICARDE has filed an affidavit in the Irish Court of Chancery, in which he emphatically denies the charges that have recently been brought against him in connexion with the suit "Handcock v. Delacour." A copy of this document has been transmitted to the daily papers by Mr. Power, his lordship's solicitor, who says:—

"Some of the charges made against Lord Clanricarde were unsupported by a particle of evidence, some rested upon loose inferences, drawn from insufficient premises, and some were negatived by documents proved in the cause. Of the former class were the assertions that Lord Clanricarde was the father of the boy Delacour; that he caused the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Handcock; that he accompanied Mrs. Handcock to Paris; that he drew a codicil to Mr. Handcock's will, whereby Mr. Handcock made his wife the guardian of his daughters; and that he gained admittance to Mrs. Handcock's house 'by a latch-key.'"

"There was not a shadow of evidence to support any of these statements. Lord Clanricarde denies them in his affidavits; some of them are disproved by documentary evidence; and the solicitor of Mr. J. D. Handcock now says, 'the latch-key was used in a figurative sense.'"

"It was alleged that Mr. Handcock had said he suspected his wife of infidelity with Lord Clanricarde. But a witness has since contradicted, upon oath, the supposed fact said to have created the suspicion; and the person (Mr. Handcock's brother) who swore to the conversation of 1842, supported in 1843 Mrs. Handcock's claim to be guardian of her daughters, in opposition to his own sister, and supported also the selection of Lord Clanricarde to be guardian of their fortune."

Lord Clanricarde, in his affidavit, denies that he assisted in promoting the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Handcock; that he was on "notoriously intimate terms" with Mrs. Handcock before her marriage; that he had improper connexion with her after her marriage (in proof of which denial he mentions that after the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Handcock, he received a very friendly letter from the former, and was on friendly terms with him in Paris); that he was the father of the boy Delacour; or that he caused the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Handcock, which he attributes to money differences, and to the former taking the French maid, Sophie, as his mistress. With respect to his connexion with the will of William Henry Handcock, he states that that individual appointed his wife and his sister guardians of the persons of his children, and a Mr. Francis Langan guardian of their fortune, and sole trustee and executor; that he (Lord Clanricarde) persuaded Mr. Handcock to alter the latter of these provisions, as he doubted Mr. Langan's fitness for the office; that Mr. Handcock drew a codicil to his will, appointing his wife joint executrix, though Mrs. Handcock never proved the will or acted as executrix; and that he (deponent) afterwards consented, though without proposing it, to become guardian of the children, who were made wards in Chancery. He furthermore states that the three Misses Handcock, Anne Mary, Josephine, and Honoria, who died successively at short intervals of time, severally consulted him about making a will in favour of their mother; that he dissuaded Anne Mary from doing so, but, after her death, consented to make such a will for Josephine, and, after the death of Josephine, refused to make a similar will for Honoria, but persuaded her to reserve a power of revocation, to which she agreed, "and such a power was inserted, and she survived her mother nine months, during which interval she might, if so minded, have revoked the deed." With regard to the assertion that his object was to obtain for the infant, John Delacour, the property of the Misses Handcock, Lord Clanricarde positively denies that he had any such wish. "And deponent saith that Mrs. Handcock felt greatly annoyed with deponent on account of the power of

revocation," &c. Finally he asserts that he had no connexion whatever with the suit of John Stratford Handcock, which sought to set aside the will of Josephine Handcock and the deed executed by Honoria Handcock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Edinburgh (steamer) has been wrecked near Varna. The crew are saved, but nothing else; the engines are in 4½ fathoms of water.

FIRE.—At an early hour on Sunday, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Murrell, hay salesman, of 11, Russell-street, Bermondsey, which, besides consuming much valuable property, destroyed six valuable houses in the stable. The fire extended to the adjoining buildings, several of which were more or less injured.

THE NORTH YORK RIFLES have been for some days in a state of great insubordination, which at one time assumed a serious appearance. Part of the men had taken offence at an order of the commanding officer, by which their bounty was paid to them by 6d at a time, instead of in quarterly sums of 5s. at a time. On the quarter-day when the instalment of 5s. became payable, the money was not forthcoming, and a large portion of the men evinced a determination to set their officers at defiance. They collected in the market-place and round the King's Arms Inn, and hooted such of the officers as were unpopular. During the night great drunkenness and disorder prevailed, and next morning the ringleaders, by wheedling some and bullying others, brought the business of the regiment to a standstill. Order was restored with some difficulty.

THE ADULTERATION OF FLOUR.—Mr. Schofield, the member for Birmingham, has given notice for the appointment of a select committee of the House of Commons with a view to put down the adulteration of flour. Some cases of the kind have recently been discovered in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which have led to the conviction of several corn millers. In two cases the delinquents were fined 20l. and costs. It appears that the flour was adulterated with sulphuric acid and oil of iron!

THE PULVERISING HOUSE at the Kennel Vale Powder Works, near Truro, has blown up. The night police at Truro, which is seven or eight miles distant, plainly saw the flash of light, and immediately afterwards felt a distinct shock of the ground. Fortunately no lives were lost; but much damage was done to the premises where the explosion took place.

THE *Moniteur* publishes an Imperial decree, granting a silver medal of honour to Edward Richard Warren and George Edwards, fishermen, of the port of Rye, for having rescued from certain death, on the 14th of January last, the crew of the French merchant ship *Notre Dame du Mont Carmel*.

COMMISSARY-GENERAL LUSCOMBE, for many years connected with the Commissariat Department, died a few days ago in Dublin. He was attached to the army during thirty-five years, and served in the Peninsula and in Italy, and was the man whom General Ffinch threatened to hang in the event of his troops being left a few hours longer without the necessary supply. A very few weeks ago the press charged the Commissary-General Filder with being the person who was threatened; but this was an error.

FROM AMERICA we learn that the Senate has struck out of the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill the portion relating to the tariff; and that the House of Representatives has agreed to the omission.

HAVANNAH.—Letters from Havannah to the 25th state that Señor Estampes and Mr. Felix had been sentenced, the former to death by the garrote, and the latter to ten years with the chain gang in Africa. Everything wore a gloomy aspect at Havannah, and the banishment and disarming of Creoles continued. There were three British ships of war in port: *Grafton*, *Monroe*, and the *Conde de Carnijo* had been appointed respectively to the Military and Civil Government of Havannah.

INUNDATION IN DEMERARA.—An inundation, supposed to be connected with some subterranean perturbation, has done considerable damage in Demerara. Meteorological phenomena, unusual in February, have also manifested themselves. "Houses" (says the *Royal Gazette*) "have 'toppled down' before extraordinary winds; forest trees have also been levelled or dismembered, and such a sea has broken upon the coast as to destroy the seaward defences, break kokers to pieces, and create an amount of destruction unprecedented in memory considering the shortness of the time. During one or two days, the rain fell incessantly and in torrents; but, although back dams were endangered by the pressure of the accumulating savannah waters, no great damage could be effected from this cause—it only lay estates draining-engines in constant employment. The sea has thoroughly saturated Kingston (part of Georgetown) with salt, killing, as a matter of course, trees and shrubs and fruit and flower with which it was commented, and which cost both time and money in the raising. There is also a mud deposit upon the land—in this country a certain cause of disease. The Executive and the Court of Policy have agreed to get out a Dutch engineer, accustomed to sea defences on the coast of Holland."

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES AND MODEL LODGING-HOUSES.—A report, by Mr. George Glover, superintending medical inspector of the General Board of Health, on the common and model lodging-houses of London, addressed to Sir Benjamin Hall, has just been presented to Parliament. From this it appears that there are 10,384 common lodging-houses more or less under the superintendence of the police, the number of persons inhabiting the registered houses being estimated at 32,000, and the number inhabiting the unregistered at 50,000. In all these houses, registered and unregistered, there were in the first nine months of last year 72 cases of cholera and 61 deaths—an amount of sickness, all things considered, "astonishingly small." The mortality from cholera in 13 weeks of 1854, in every 10,000 of the population, in the common lodging-houses under the superintendence of the police, thus amounted to seven only, whereas the lowest proportion in other districts of the superintending-registrars was never less than 12 (Hampstead), while the mortality was as high as 162 in Bermondsey. The model lodging-houses have enjoyed all but complete exemption from the cholera, the mortality among the inmates having been only in the ratio of about 26 in 10,000 (taking all the deaths in the buildings of the two societies together), whereas the mortality from cholera in the Potteries, Kensington, was in the ratio of 259 in every 10,000; and in Bermondsey 162 in 10,000.

JOHN CARDEN.—John Carden has refused the conditional release culpably offered to him, alleging, it is affirmed, that the conditions "tied him up too much;" that is to say, we suppose, gave him too poor an opportunity of renewing his attempt upon Miss Arbuthnot. Carden, we are told, will die if he is not set at large. It therefore remains to be seen whether the Government will still further extend its civility, and let the "gentleman" go without any conditions whatever.

THE FOLEY-PLACE MURDER.—Luigi Buranelli was again brought up at Marlborough-street on Tuesday for final examination. Mrs. Jeanes, with whom the murdered man cohabited, was sufficiently recovered to attend and give her evidence, which was to the same effect as that of previous witnesses. An assistant to a pawnbroker in Tottenham-court-road having deposed that he sold a pair of pistols to the prisoner, who said that he wanted them to take to Australia, Buranelli, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial.

AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The Lord Mayor of London has received from the Mayor of Geelong a draft for 1311l. 13s., money collected in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

A DESPERATE CHINAMAN.—At the Marlborough-street Police-court, on Monday, a young Chinaman was accused of begging, and was sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment. On hearing this, he pulled out a clasp knife, cut his throat, and fell bleeding in the dock. He still continued to hack at his throat even while efforts were being made to wrest the knife from his hand; and after the wounds were sewed and bandaged, he endeavoured to tear them open again, but was prevented.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR.—As his Lordship was delivering judgment on Tuesday in the House of Lords, an immense stone, which was being hauled up to the ventilator tower, over the House, fell upon the roof, almost immediately above his Lordship.

INDIA.—The last overland mail brings no news of importance. From the *Bombay Times* of February 16th, we learn that perfect tranquillity prevails throughout India, with every prospect of its continuing. A Russian force had arrived within some days' march of Khiva, but no Russian agent had been within reach of that town. The Shah of Persia has been strenuously endeavouring to effect an alliance with Dost Mahomed; to which end he promises to restore all the territory wrested from Cabul. Such an alliance would in fact be an alliance with Russia, and the Dost seems more inclined to enter into relations with England.—The Oude territories are still in a state of civil war, and the Ranees has obtained some signal successes over the King's troops.—The Bombay subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund amount to upwards of 10,000l.; and all over British India the subscriptions have been exceedingly liberal.

CHINA.—The renewal of an assault on the city of Shanghai has been daily expected since January 20th, when a few shots were fired into it by the French, whereby it was reported that about twenty insurgents were killed. This morning, at about half-past six o'clock, a cannonade was commenced from the French battery in front of the French consulate, and within an hour a practical breach was made in the north city wall, below the Joss-house that was destroyed by the bombardment on the 9th ult. At this place we hear that 1500 Imperialists and 250 French marines and sailors ascended the breach, and scaled the walls, when a furious contest ensued—the French frigate *La Jeanne d'Arc* and steamer *Colbert* also firing into the city, to protect the attacking column. The insurgents maintained their ground with great determination, and hurled the Imperialists from the walls as fast as they ascended, for some time. The French behaved with great coolness and bravery; but Lieut. Duran was killed, and Ensign Disney wounded, on the first attack. The French found their native allies useless, and were obliged to retire within their lines.—*Oxford Friend of China.*

JOSEPH CLEASHY, the boy charged with robbing his master, whose case we mentioned last week, has been committed for three months to the House of Correction at Holloway.

THE MOUNTGARRET PEEBAGE CASE.—At the Killenny Assizes, the jury have returned a verdict in favour of Lord Mountgarret.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 24.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

LOAN TO SARDINIA.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR read a message from the Crown, to the effect that her Majesty had, in concert with the Emperor of the French, entered into a treaty with the King of Sardinia, whereby the latter engages to maintain for the purposes of the war 15,000 men, and by the same convention her Majesty undertakes, on the recommendation of Parliament, to advance to the King of Sardinia 1,000,000l., 500,000l. to be paid as soon after the assent of Parliament to the loan had been obtained as possible, and the remainder to be paid six months after the first instalment. Her Majesty further engages, after the expiration of twelve months, to advance to the King of Sardinia a like sum of 1,000,000l., the Government of Sardinia engaging to pay four per cent. per annum—one per cent. of which was to go to the sinking fund. Her Majesty has directed a copy of the convention to be placed before their lordships, and she relies upon the House of Lords to make good the engagements which she had contracted.

THE SERVICES OF THE MILITIA.

A discussion originating with the Earl of MALMESBURY, arose with regard to whether militiamen enrolled under the Act of 1852 were liable to be embodied, without their consent, under the Act of 1854.

LORD PALMERSTON said that the law officers of the Crown were of opinion that according to the law as it stood the men so situated were liable to serve, but as an implied engagement had been made that they were to have an option given them as to the embodied service, he had made arrangements to keep faith with them.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

LORD BROUGHAM then made a motion, and brought forward certain resolutions with a view to the amendment of procedure under the criminal law. His resolutions went to the enlarging the powers of police magistrates, the establishment of a uniform police all over the country, the establishment of a greater number of assizes and sessions, in order to prevent persons waiting for trial being kept for long periods in prison, and the establishment of a public prosecutor.

The LORD CHANCELLOR objected to some of the details of the resolutions, but they were allowed to be brought in.

The House adjourned at a quarter-past seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was moved for the borough of Wilton, in the room of Mr. A'Court, who has accepted the office of a commissioner of income tax.

THE MILITIA.

In answer to Colonel CLIFFORD, Sir G. GREY stated that it was the opinion of the law officers of the Crown that militiamen enlisted under the act of 1852 were liable to be embodied under the act of 1854.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

LORD PALMERSTON brought up a message from the Crown with reference to the Sardinian loan, which was in the same terms as that to the Lords. He moved that it be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Mr. BOWYER inquired whether the Government had intended, before bringing on the question of the loan of 2,000,000l. to Sardinia, to lay papers before the House showing the condition of the finances of that country?

LORD PALMERSTON said he could afford no information as to the general state of the finances of Sardinia, but he had no doubt that that country could pay the interest on the sum about to be lent to her.

THE FAST-DAY SERMON.

On the motion of LORD PALMERSTON, seconded by Mr. DISRAELI, a vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Mr. Melvill for his sermon preached before the House on the Fast-day, and it was ordered to be printed.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

Mr. DEEDS gave notice that on the motion for the second reading of the Newspaper Stamp Bill he should move as an amendment, that the second reading be postponed until after the Budget had been brought forward.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

The LORD ADVOCATE moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the education of the people of Scotland. He proposed to organise a corps of inspectors, who were to examine and report upon the educational wants of every district in Scotland, and the best means of supplying them. Public education to be compulsory, but at the same time not under the exclusive superintendence of the Established Church. Religious instruction was, however, to be given in all the schools, with the proviso that attendance of the scholars should be left to the discretion of their parents. He proposed to improve the condition of the parish schools, and to raise the salaries of the schoolmasters.

Mr. BAXTER (the new member for Montrose), in a maiden speech, expressed his warm approval of the Lord Advocate's Bill.

Some remarks upon the details of the measure were made by the Scotch representatives, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. LINDSAY called attention to the administrative system of the Government, as exhibited in the arrangements for the transport service. More than eight millions, he remarked, had been voted for transport, and vessels engaged of greater aggregate burden than 250,000 tons, of which 150,000 were in steamers. The money spent and number of vessels employed were large beyond all proportion to the amount of services required or rendered. The fault arose from the continued delays and the want of a well regulated system of management. Two millions, he computed, had been wasted solely through the unnecessary detention of vessels.

Sir J. GRAHAM, so far as the naval department of administration was concerned, vindicated both the system and the functionaries by whom it was worked. If the expenses appeared comparatively large, the cause was attributable partly to the peculiar exigencies of the services, and partly to the inevitable haste in which, under a pressing emergency, the vast transport fleet had been called into operation.

The subject then dropped.

Mr. ALCOCK commented upon the state and conduct of the war in the Crimea.

The discussion on the transport service was renewed by Sir S. NORTHGOTE, and carried on by several members, and was closed by Sir C. WOOL, who vindicated both the public departments and individual functionaries from the censures which had been cast on them in the course of the debate.

The other orders of the day were disposed of, and the House adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock.

The latest information from the Crimea leads to the belief that the Russians are making preparations for a colossal blow at the allied position; and that the design they attempted to carry out on the 5th of November last, will be shortly undertaken with more foresight, better disposition, and a far greater force. On the other hand, we have undeniable intelligence, from private sources, that the British force, 18,000 strong, is in splendid condition and excellent spirits, and therefore quite prepared to meet and return with interest any enterprise of the enemy. We know that General Canrobert places the utmost reliance on the present effective force and indomitable obstinacy of his British allies. It is true that every man—French, English, and Turk—will be needed, whether for operations against Sebastopol, or in the field. But so far as the British are concerned, we are sure they will be found in the right place at the right time, and that the enemy will know they are there.

A meeting to promote a testimonial to the late Lord Dudley Stuart was held at Willis's Rooms yesterday afternoon, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The attendance was not very numerous, but the feeling of the audience was earnest and profound, and there was probably not a person in the room who did not mourn for the occasion of his coming as for a private and personal calamity. We have more than once quoted that noble saying of a French writer, "They who come to us from the higher ranks should have a double welcome, for they have a double way to come; we are born into the people's cause," and we never felt its truth more deeply than now, when we are mourning the untimely loss of one who, in an epoch of public apathy and political discouragement, forgot the prejudices of his caste, and freed himself from the dissolving influences of privileged station, to defend the rights of the oppressed with all the strength of a sincere and steadfast heart. Every speaker bore personal witness to the constant charity of that noble nature, and Lord Robert Grosvenor related that in the very last winter of his life, when he was already shattered by a disease which robbed him of all sleep and rest, Lord Dudley Stuart would rise at dead of night to visit and relieve the homeless outcasts in the streets. A working man gave a touching and spontaneous expression to the sympathy of that multitude whose thanks are blessings.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Session of Parliament it is often impossible to send for correspondence, even the briefest. Notice can be taken of anonymous communications, but no notice is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1855.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—**DR. ARNOLD.**

THE CHOICE OF ISSUES.

If Parliament is to recover from its disgrace, and the elective Government of England is to be anything nobler than a shuttlecock for the *Times*, it must be through a union of the Liberal party. Liberal principles are now the established principles of England. Tories counterfeit them when they hope for place. To the great body of Liberals power of right belongs; and they only can govern England long, peaceably, or with honour. Even supposing the Derbyite leaders personally were less abject than they are, Derbyism could only remain in office six months by a repetition of the rogueries and humiliations of 1852, which clearly would not add to the moral strength of parliamentary institutions, and which, we presume, even the best of the Derbyites themselves would wish to avoid. The old Tories, in whom the aristocratic honour and spirit of the party lingers, must have begun to see that when principles contrary to their own are completely in the ascendant, and have become the rule of government, their only respectable place is that of drag: they cannot, without infamy, be the wheel.

If anything that now exists is to form a government that the people can love and any man of intellect can respect, it must be the Liberal party—the whole party, and with real men to lead it. Lord JOHN RUSSELL must be made aware that he does not fill the intellectual world with thought, or speak words of fire; and that great and beneficent as Whiggery has been in its day, its shade is not ample enough for humanity to repose under for ever. He must be made aware of this by decided and manly representations in the councils of the party, not by peevish recriminations in the House. He must be reminded of the long catalepsy which we enjoyed under his able and historic leadership from 1846 to 1852, and asked whether he conscientiously thinks that Mr. VERNON SMITH ought to be a Liberal Minister before JOHN BRIGHT. Lord JOHN is really a man of some high aspirations, though of limited intellect, and he has taken part in some great acts of political justice. But he was brought up and has always lived in a Whig hothouse safe from the rough winds of heaven; and we may charitably doubt whether anybody has ever told him plainly that it is mean and

selfish, and damning to his name in history, to sacrifice everything to his own small pretensions and make a Lilliput of liberal England that a pigmy may be king.

The leading Manchester men ought, of course, to have been Ministers long ago, as the authors of that commercial policy on which the Whigs and Peelites rode into power; and were it not for their Quakerish views about the war, they ought to be Ministers now. But we presume that Mr. BRIGHT and Mr. COBDEN, whenever they meet a man of high culture, must feel that they cannot expect to govern England by themselves. A nation does not live by bread alone. With great respect for material interests and their representatives we cannot consent to retrograde from LOCKE and MILTON to a republic of pumpkin pie. The thing could not stand six months against the sentimentalists and satirists. Besides, the sympathies of master manufacturers with the people are not unlimited. Manchester must borrow cultivation of the philosophical Radicals, and lend the philosophical Radicals in return the stamina and working power in which they are signally deficient. We are afraid it is premature to talk about the contributions which may be expected from the Peelites. Some of that set (let them give up the notion that they are a party) have probably realised their position and know that they could not act for a week with men who prefer established institutions to truth and justice, and class interests to the good of the people. But others of them, in spite of strong discouragement, still hang about the purlieus of Toryism, and still cant of Conservatism; as though it were not the best and only practical Conservatism heartily to join the cause of political justice, and to ennoble and moderate its advance. It is simply disgusting to hear Mr. GLADSTONE, with his lights and experience, saying that the best thing for England is that Lord DERBY should form a government of NORTHUMBERLANDS and PARKINGTONS, and that he, the heir of PEELE, should support it. The squires made Lord DERBY apologise for having been willing to touch GLADSTONE with a pair of tongs, and they did well. We are glad, and by no means surprised, that Lord DERBY's chivalry was equal to the required operation.

We do not want to get up a party for vulgar party purposes. We are not writing in aid of Mr. HAYTER's whip. We merely wish to put things before politicians as they are. Parliamentary Government has come to a real, not a rhetorical or editorial crisis. Some people, whom we would not prudishly condemn, are inclined to think that we had better accept our destiny, and look out for a Dictator. The only alternative, however, (unless the Derbyites get in and make a coup d'état) is such a reconstruction of the Liberal party, and under such leaders, as shall give us a strong and respectable Parliamentary Government. Fate and nature may forbid that we should ever have a strong and respectable Parliamentary Government again; but selfishness, jealousy, prejudice, vanity, and obstinacy, ought not to stand in the way. Party, in the base sense, is, we hope, dead for rational beings, though it lives for protectionist squires. But still, men may act sensibly and generously together for a great national object without sacrificing their intellectual independence. Liberals may learn to tolerate and respect one another. Liberalism is simply the thorough-going love of political and social justice; and that allegiance may unite men of various training, various casts of mind, various connexions, and, therefore, inevitably of various shades of thought. We are aware, of course, that it is easier for us to see this, than for members of the House of Commons

to act on it. Ambition as well as prejudice there stands in the way. The feasibility of the thing is not our present topic. We only insist on its necessity, and point to the alternative if it fails.

HUNGARY, ITALY, AND POLAND.

THE "suppressed nationalities" are obtaining more attention as the growing prospect of war renders peoples more valuable to Governments; but it is desirable, on every account, to notice the distinctions that exist between those which are on every patriot's lips—Hungary, Italy, and Poland.

There is truth in the declaration that no nationality which is worthy to exist, can be suppressed. It will be able to sustain itself against even a stronger power, as the cases of Scotland and Switzerland can tell; but in these cases, the moral citadel lies in the devotion of the patriots, who are actually prepared to die rather than to submit; and such men it is impossible to conquer. A great combination was brought against Hungary in 1849, when Russia joined with Austria; and Hungary had before sustained her nationality bravely, developing her liberties with a generosity that did credit to all parties. Nevertheless it is true, that the numbers of her population comprised different races, one predominant, and the others subject; that although her "nobles"—that is, the dominant race—had given up some of their most odious privileges, such as exemption from the bridge tax, they had not given up all, including amongst those retained a species of villeinage in the holding of land. It is Austria who has abolished that and other class distinctions; it is Austria who has rendered all equal before the law, has introduced railways, and placed Hungary in a position to develop her material and political resources, if she knows how, in a generous way, to make Austria's need Hungary's opportunity. Her nationality, therefore, is not under the oppression of Italy or the extinction of Poland, and her separation from Austria would seem to be, in the opinion of statesmen, a positive loss to all.

The case of Italy is quite different. Here the defect in the nationality lies in the surviving force of the different stirpes. Mixed as the races are, still the diversities introduced by Albanian, Etruscan, Greek, Ligurian, Venetian, and Teutonic blood, have been sufficient to prevent the unity of Italy. There has been no subject race; but the divisions are, in many cases, territorial. The power of confederation has been small; yet Italy has often been united in two halves under Pope and Emperor—the Guelph and Ghibelline parties; and it would be difficult, our diplomatic liberals say, in the present vile condition of the Roman and Neapolitan rule, to calculate the effect of reviving a Ghibelline party, if Austria were to imitate in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom the House of Savoy in "Sardinia," or herself in Hungary and Bohemia. Italy has been suppressed under a conspiracy of Governments who could bring into the field aggregate armies greater than any which either state could possibly muster. The genius of the Italian race—which predominates far over the diversities of stirpes—still survives; Italy still is a land of arts, learning, patriotism, and political wisdom; and every people in Europe longs to see the Italian people emancipated. "Che sarà sarà," as the House of Bedford says. Italy and Europe wait, as Mazzini says, "Ora e sempre;" and the Piedmontese show, as Tuscany, Rome, Calabria, Naples, and Sicily have done within any "statute of limitations," that Italy still has the power of action. A happy train of circumstances in

Europe will be her opportunity, and we trust the universal aspiration for independence will be found in the hour of need to triumph over all disintegrating and disuniting factions.

Poland, again, stands on a footing entirely different. "There were anti-popular defects in her constitution"—but what country had them not when Poland was parcelled? Had Germany none, or France, or Ireland, or Scotland? "Nations are bound to defend themselves"—true; but Poland sank under a conspiracy of powers. "She has become Russianised, and is unfit for freedom now, would not even wish it"—a sad warning, if the statement be true, as to the fate of other nations upon whom Russia has been marching. But let us try. Other nations have been enslaved, and have yet survived: Hungary still lives, Spain is not Moorish, Flanders is not French or Dutch, nor is Holland Spanish. When last Poland stood alone, she was one of the best bulwarks of Europe; and Austria owes her a heavy debt. Moreover, while Russian, she is a fort for the Czar, of enormous scale—a kingdom fort, overawing Prussia and threatening Austria. Sebastopol is far less important than Poland as a Russian stronghold threatening Europe; is it possible to convert the Russian stronghold into a bulwark against Russia, with a resident and a native guard animated by all its old military fire, and a new gratitude for its restorers?

THE PAKINGTON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

WHATEVER may be the fate of Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's Bill, the fact of its introduction by him, its welcome by Government, and its reception by the House of Commons, constitute great facts in the progress of education, and of all things which have hitherto been obstructed by religious bigotry it offers a mode by which those who have been at war on the subject of religion may escape from the conflict and agree upon measures of practical utility for the people. Hitherto while all admit the necessity of general education, all refuse to agree upon any one plan. Voluntaryism is despair; Secular education has appeared to be most in advance; but the Secularists go violently in the teeth of the mass of public opinion in this country; and even if it were quite desirable to divorce religious instruction from temporal instruction, under the circumstances of the country as they are likely to exist for some time to come, it would be simply impossible. The measure which Lord JOHN RUSSELL intends to introduce is not explained, but hitherto it has been, properly speaking, not national at all, it has only consisted in some State patronage for schools of particular classes, and is so far an extension of the British and Foreign or National School systems. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's plan combines the principles of voluntary initiation, followed by compulsory maintenance of schools. He proposes that the country shall be considered in towns and districts coincident with the Poor-law divisions; that a majority of the ratepayers shall determine whether or not a school shall be established, the school once established to be supported by a compulsory rate, but to receive an auxiliary contribution from Government. Existing schools would qualify themselves to receive the rate, upon complying with a certain condition quite in harmony with the condition in the new schools. The creed to be taught in the schools would be determined by the same majority of the ratepayers; but all schools enrolled under the system, and receiving aid from Government, would be required to admit any children for instruction, whatever the persuasion of the parents, and to abstain

from forcing upon those children the creed taught in the schools. This plan, therefore, leaves the promoters of all existing schools undisturbed; permits them to become national on easy conditions; and secures public education for all creeds, wherever any public school exists. It creates a minimum of disturbance, while securing a maximum of improvement.

The treatment of religion in this plan strikes us as being an event of the highest importance for the future of this country. It indicates an advancement of liberal feeling in the party to which Sir JOHN PAKINGTON belongs, and *a fortiori* in the country at large. It distinctly recognises absolute freedom of conscience for all creeds whatsoever; absolute equality of the right to be taught for the children of all persuasions; absolute freedom from any authoritative dictate of a belief. If the Church, or any number of churches in the country, were efficient in their duty, and were publicly to explain to pupils in the presence of parents, and under the surveillance of public opinion, the fundamental truths and general beliefs on the subject of religion, there would be no necessity to supply that branch of instruction in the schools. The Church would be the school in that behalf. But the Church does not do its duty; its professors are engaged, not in enforcing the fundamental truths of religion, but far more in enforcing the definitive dogmata of creed, and in defending the property of the Church as the property of the servants of the Church. The parish church has thus become, not the spiritual school of the parish, but the close property of a particular sect, often a minority in the parish; and its scholastic duties are entirely in abeyance. Now we do not think that it is for the advantage of mankind that religious ideas should remain absolutely untaught even to the young. It is true of religion, as it is of all vital truths, that it is received by the instinctive perceptions; and however the adult mind may crave more specific definitions, even the youthful minds will ask for some explanation. It is well, therefore, if the explanation can be such as the intelligence of the community can furnish, and not the crude conjectures of ignorance or puerility. If much of error is mixed with truth, as a great deal of inert useless matter is mixed up with the mass of our usual food, it does not follow that the truth should be entirely withheld, any more than starvation would be better than feeding upon adulterated nutriment. Thus, on abstract grounds, we recognise the duty of including religion amongst the things taught. The necessity is clinched by the fact that the great bulk of the people of this country will not permit education to be given without religious teaching. That we take to be a great fact. In the meanwhile, then, until a purer idea of religion can be refined from the dross, the public will persevere in taking dross and truth together, and both with educational food.

But Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's Bill constitutes an advance, we believe, in the refinement of religion, and in the emancipation of this country from anti-religious sects. In proportion as the country is elevated, in proportion as it is enabled by intellectual culture to compare the dogmata of ignorance with the "common things" that are best appreciated by the highest philosophers, and best illustrate the great laws of the universe, so will it be strengthened to discriminate between the purity and dross of religion. The children taught at Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's schools would, upon the whole, entertain a purer faith than their progenitors, and would transmit to their descendants a yet purer faith than their own.

There is an important ecclesiastical principle laid down in this Bill. It is that the local majority shall determine the local doctrine. The Church has parted with its power over the minds of the people, by neglecting its school-keeping and school-teaching duties. The funds intended for that purpose have been appropriated to the ostentation or luxury of the clergy. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON has discovered the means of a just but not a vindictive retribution upon the Church for that dereliction of duty. He has admitted the principle of a sound spiritual commonwealth—that the doctrine taught shall be that of the majority. But a community taught a particular doctrine will hardly tolerate a local Church repugnant to that doctrine, and the children taught in Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's schools will one day learn their right to extend the principle of the school to the Church, and the doctrine taught in the church of the parish will be determined by the religious belief of the majority. We shall then have the true Church of the people of England, for which Sir JOHN is preparing the way by offering to us the school of the people of England; the rights of the minority being amply respected in the absolute freedom given to dissidents.

NOT THE LEAST DIFFICULT OF THE FOUR POINTS.

WE have reason to hope that the present Ministry will be compelled to abandon that ruinous system, half war and half peace, which has paralysed the operations of armies and confounded the perverse ingenuity of diplomatists.

Whether we have war or peace, whether the war be a contest of giants, in the midst of which the rights of the people of Europe will be sacrificed, or the peace be merely a truce for a few years, during which Russia will more fully prepare her strength against Europe, it is certain that the independence of the Ottoman Empire, which was the first pretext for the conflict, will be secured for the moment, at least in the treaties, by the Allied Powers. But what will be the case in the interior of that Empire?

It will be easily perceived that, while armies are fighting and negotiations pending, while diplomatists agitate and statesmen discuss, while the conscientious friends of rational freedom hope, and conspirators (regal or patriotic) plot, Turkey, that apple of discord thrown four centuries since into the midst of Europe, exhausts her finances and wastes her vitality to preserve an empire, which no human efforts can sustain, unless those barriers, which oppose the irresistible march of civilisation, be overthrown.

Now, this is precisely the difficulty in Turkey. It is a political and social question, each side of which has its importance, and reacts on the other.

Every thinking man must be aware, that to base the reform of Mahometan society at once on the system of civilisation established in Europe, would be as tyrannical as to impose the government of the Pope on England, and quite as difficult as to construct European society on the system of the Phalansteries of FOURIER. If the Ottoman Empire were composed of one race only, whose manners and belief were similar, then a civilisation *sui generis* would have been possible, and, though far removed from the form it has taken in Christendom, would, perhaps, have been equal to it in its results. But the question now is: Can Islamism engraft the principles of Christian civilisation, or reconcile itself to Christianity without an act of suicide? Can the various races exist together with equal rights and powers without destroying each other? These ques-

tions prove a well-known truth—that the chief obstacles to reform in Turkey arise from the difference of races and the incompatibility of their ideas. The difference of religion, traditions, and institutions among them is important, since it indicates vital and organic differences of character and constitution. So long, therefore, as these differences exist, so long will they offer permanent difficulty to a complete civilisation of the Ottoman Empire.

The idea of Sultan MAHMUD—"I wish for the future that among my subjects the Mahometan should only be distinguished at the Mosque, the Christian at the Church, and the Hebrew at the Synagogue"—would be a noble wish if religion could be confined to the form of worship alone, but it exerts an influence so powerful and extensive on all that relates to the social and political life of a people, that it raises a barrier, if not of hatred, at least of dissimilarity of education and of feeling, among the various members of the human family. This is the misfortune of the population of Turkey, and to this must European statesmen direct attention.

How can these obstacles be removed? A fusion of races, always difficult to accomplish between the conquerors and conquered, is, for the reason we have mentioned, impossible in Turkey. It is hopeless to expect a voluntary renunciation of a system of corruption which infects all Government offices, since ABDUL MEDJID and all his predecessors for the last 150 years have constantly failed in their attempts to reform these abuses; and we look in vain for a patriotic self-abnegation, a departure from ignorance, from idle and effeminate habits, and a determination to adopt moral principles befitting useful and intelligent citizens.

What, then, can force civilisation on the Turks? Continual European intervention? No. The general opinion of England considers that the best plan would be to render the political condition of the Christians equal to that of the Turks. This, also, is the opinion of the Allied Governments, who have designated it as one of the four points which will tend to the establishment of peace in Europe. But let us inquire—How can the Allied Powers expect that, by taking away every political inequality from the Christians, they will guarantee the independence and safety of Turkey, and advance the interests of Turkish civilisation? The moral, intellectual, and industrial condition of the Turks can, in no way, be compared with that of the Christians subjected to them. The Christians are already infinitely superior, and if to this superiority you add political existence, you immediately annihilate the Turks, and with them the Ottoman Empire falls. If the question be asked—Which of the two races is the better prepared to enter into the European system?—we cannot resist the reply: The Christian population. Hence it is clear, that if the European system of civilisation be imposed on Turkey, the Christian race will become dominant, and, as the fall of the Turkish Empire is what the Czar most desires, and what the Allied Powers are most anxious to prevent, it follows that, even if the allied armies should raze every Russian fortress, still, under these circumstances, Russia would virtually triumph.

We may be permitted to ask, then, what is the independence of Turkey, if not a mere nominal question? Independence, strictly speaking, would be nothing less than perfect liberty given to the Turks to exercise their corrupt, arbitrary, and despotic rule, according to their own good pleasure; now, such a system is barbarism, which is henceforth impossible.

Independence, interpreted more in accordance with justice and the rights of nations, would allow the conquered people to resume the power which had been wrested from them by force, and to which their greater aptitude for civilisation entitles them; but this would be a Byzantine Empire, in other words, diplomats believe though the Czar denies, an absolute triumph for Russia.

Independence, finally, as understood by the Allied Governments, is, that five foreign Powers shall protect three-fourths of the population of Turkey from being ruled over by the remaining fourth, who are Turks. Such independence can only be ironical. Can five foreign Protectors, assuming the right to interfere with the affairs of their own co-religionists, thus multiplying five times the dissensions, the divers interests, and the rivalry for power in Turkey, definitively settle the question? On the contrary: each of them, to strengthen itself, would try to form a party in order to predominate over the others. They would finally clash among themselves, and leave the Ottoman Empire a prey to the strongest.

The political wisdom, therefore, concealed in the fourth point of the conditions of peace, far from deciding the question, merely adjourns it.

FACTORY LABOUR.

THE failure of Mr. COBBETT to obtain the leave of the Commons for restricting, by bill, the working power of factories, ought to tell the working classes that they must seek some other reliance than that upon Parliament. They will be very indignant at the summary treatment of a measure which many of them favour. Several will be very indignant with us for saying that Mr. COBBETT did not make out such a case as the present, or any probable, House of Commons could accept. But when they have indulged that natural feeling sufficiently, they will perceive that there is something more to do than to be indignant. The fact is, that there are periods for all things; and there was a period when OASTLER and FIELDEN had a rising influence—when ten hours expressed the want of multitudes who could stand out, show themselves, and speak with one voice. But JOSEPH RAYNER STEPHENS has grown grey; OASTLER has been writing unread little sheets; and FIELDEN has retired to a better existence. A ten-hours' agitation survives only in a comparatively small circle—the very name of COBBETT, like that of O'CONNELL, belongs to the past. It will need much to be done before the working classes can get up an agitation like that which OASTLER, STEPHENS, and FIELDEN used; and we must pass through many years before the opportunity for that agitation can arise.

Should it come, there will need a greater strength of arguments and of voting power before the main proposition of Mr. COBBETT's Bill can be accepted. We must remember, that not only was it the rejected part of the measure proposed by the triumvirate, but that while a controversy on the principle of the existing statutes was admitted, the proposal to stop the motive power was uniformly rejected by the majority in Parliament, and by all the influential classes in this country, as absolutely incapable even of argument. Not, without good reason, existing legislation abstains from imposing any restriction upon adult men supposed to be in possession of their faculties, or upon the working of machinery, the property of such men. It went upon the assumption, that women, who are the servants of their husbands, and young persons who are in bondage to their parents, are incapable of defending themselves from improper employment. Manufacturers were

prohibited to employ such people for a protracted time daily, because it was presumed that the two classes could not refuse for themselves. The manufacturer was prohibited, exactly on the same principle as the subjects of the King of Spain were prohibited from receiving presents from the Virgin Mary, after the soldier had pleaded a marvellous courtesy on the part of the image in church, whose ring he wore on his finger. So far there was no interference with the subject. The persons placed under restriction were, by the presumption, not free, and the statutes of 1847 and 1850, therefore, constituted no infringement on the rights of the subject, or on the British constitution. The proposal to stop the motive power is a direct infringement on the rights both of person and of property. *Volenti non fit injuria*. There is nothing abstractedly immoral in continuing the working of factory engines for any length of time. An iron furnace is never blown out: a barrister will labour for longer hours than the greediest millowner would exact; and if the adult male population regard the employment in factories for the usual hours, as injurious to their health and moral condition—their intellectual culture, or their political power—they have only to refuse.

We know beforehand the answer. They will say that they cannot refuse; that the number of persons amongst them prevents concentration of purpose or collected council; that if the majority agree, the "knobsticks" can always defeat the judgment of the many; and they will follow up this representation with many indignant epithets levelled at the "knobsticks," who, in times of violence, frequently receive something more substantial than the coarsest epithets. This is a representation of facts, but no argument. The existence of an evil does not prove the necessity of abolishing the cause from which that evil springs, unless the evil is the sole product. The unconsidered pressure which the millowners put upon their machinery indeed produces other evils besides the exhaustion of the workmen: it inflicts other injuries upon him besides those which he seeks to remedy in a Ten Hours Bill. It helps to reduce his wages by the same process which inflicts bankruptcy on the millowners. But these evils are not the only product of the system. We also have from it that enormous producing power which enables England to supply the world with a particular kind of goods, and which really places an immense amount of wealth at the command of our merchants and manufacturers, and our working-classes. For the condition of a factory hand, so far as it can be measured in money and in many of the means of life, is superior to that of his equal in social standing in most towns of the world. If we begin to interfere with the steam-power of this system, we may stop other things than the evils, and, indeed, cannot tell very well what we should do.

There is, however, a remedy, and it is one which lies comparatively within the reach of the working classes; a reason, perhaps, why they do not value it sufficiently. They have it in their power to enter into competition with the manufacturers, and to beat them by their own weapons. The cotton-trade is one in which the power of making increases faster than the markets. One palpable consequence of this condition was, recently, that the markets of America, India, and Australia had nearly a year's stock on hand; in other words, Lancashire and North Cheshire had got, in the producing power, a year ahead of the consuming power of these three great markets. Hence bankruptcies in Liverpool and Manchester; hence, a "short time" that the working classes do not ask for; the re-

ult being many hands out of work, and lower wages. How was it that the manufacturers were betrayed into that erroneous anticipation of business? It arose from the fact that each man tried to anticipate the market, and kept his movements secret from his fellows, although he might have known beforehand that the same impulses would be influencing others equally with himself. So it proved, every man making as much as he could, sending out as much as he could. All made too much, and bankruptcy came home to the manufacturers—want of work to the men. Now the working hands themselves assist in piling up this evil. If the cotton-trade can be rescued from that condition in which its producing power exceeds the consuming power of foreign markets, it must be by rendering its products yet cheaper, and thus spreading to wider markets; and at the same time by so improving its methods as to require less hand labour. The working classes will assist in this reform by withdrawing their labour from the factories; and hence their advantage and safety in that process which we have already recommended to them as the true substitute for the suffrage at home—it was MAHOMET'S process—to go to the suffrage if the suffrage would not come to them. Let them emigrate. Every man who goes to America or Australia may, after a first trial of difficulties, become a landowner himself, or the father of landowners, and see his family continually rising in wealth, comfort, and intelligence. He ceases to become the half-pauperised maker, and becomes the consumer; thus helping the fellows whom he left behind.

Those who remain at home, however, would still need something to strengthen them against the overwhelming power which wealth and combination amongst similar numbers places at the command of the mill-owners; and it is to be found, we believe, in the same thing that is wanting throughout all English public action just now—a stronger regard for each other; a greater fidelity to the interests of class, a great firmness in combining, a more powerful feeling of personal regard for their fellows and their leaders.

LORD LUCAN.

LORD LUCAN'S case is not one whit improved by Lord LUCAN'S pleading in his own behalf in the House of Peers. There were two questions: whether he behaved with that judgment which should characterise an officer in command of cavalry; and next, whether he deserved a court-martial? With the latter point we shall not trouble ourselves, as the obstacle was the military law ordaining that no officer or soldier shall be tried upon any charge if he served after that charge should have been made. Upon the first question we may add a few words to our former statement.

There are several minor questions in Lord LUCAN'S defence, but the turning point of the whole affair rests upon his interview with Captain NOLAN. According to Lord LUCAN'S own statement, Captain NOLAN brought him the written order which we placed before our readers a fortnight ago. That order, as we conceive, and our opinion is sustained by Lord CARDIGAN, Lord HARDINGE, and the Duke of RICHMOND, directed the commander of cavalry to make a tentative advance to test the practicability of saving the guns which Lord RAGLAN believed the Russians were removing from the redoubts. Captain NOLAN delivered the order, and went beyond his duty in accompanying it with a verbal explanation, that it meant Lord LUCAN should attack immediately. Here lies the pith of the case. Should Lord LUCAN have obeyed Captain

NOLAN'S interpretation, or Lord RAGLAN'S written order? There can be no doubt that when an aide-de-camp brings a verbal order from the commander-in-chief, the officer to whom it is addressed is bound to obey it, quite as much as if he had it from the lips of the commander himself. But military authorities and common sense agree that when a written order is sent, the writing, not the speaking, is to be followed. Lord LUCAN lost his temper, obeyed Captain NOLAN, and justified Lord RAGLAN'S rebuke to him on the evening of the day, when he said, "Why, you have lost the Light Brigade." We may say, with the Duke of RICHMOND, that if verbal interpretations are to be regarded, "what, in Heaven's name, is the use of a written order?"

As we have said before, the order was eminently discretionary. And the minor questions introduced by Lord LUCAN only serve to show that he lost his discretion. He says the guns were not being carried away, that Lord RAGLAN was mistaken in thinking they were. Well, if that is so, was it not stronger ground for a discretionary execution of the order? Lord RAGLAN informed him that the French cavalry were on the left. As he had interpreted the order, or rather as he had adopted Captain NOLAN'S interpretation, he thought that the information about the French cavalry did not mean that he might combine his operation with theirs, but that the French cavalry had been already ordered to advance. Therefore, he says, he had no time to communicate with them, and had he not charged he would have left them unsupported before the enemy. This was another blunder. It is clear that the intimation given by Lord RAGLAN, as to the French cavalry, related solely to their position in any combined movement. The fact is the French cavalry did not take part in the charge of the Light Brigade, but charged afterwards, in order to silence a portion of the Russian fire, so fatal to the Light Brigade.

Lord LUCAN made an *ex parte* statement of the events of the day; and we are not in a position to test its accuracy. But one fact, not an unimportant fact, comes under the test. In his speech Lord LUCAN said that Lord CARDIGAN had sent him a message to say that he found the enemy so numerous as to make it difficult for him to hold his ground. Lord CARDIGAN promptly supplies the correction. He sent no such message; the message he did send was sound information, to the effect that the hills on both sides of the valley were occupied by Russian artillery and riflemen, with cavalry drawn up behind. That is the information which should have prevented Lord LUCAN from ordering 700 horsemen to attack the Russian army.

We see no reason to alter our opinion that Lord LUCAN alone is responsible for the loss of the Light Brigade.

HOSPITAL BOATS.

We invite the particular attention of our readers to a letter which we have printed this week in another part of our journal, under the title of "Hints to the Admiralty." The letter proceeds from a gentleman whose statements are in the highest degree deserving of our respect and confidence. While we are horrified at the revelations before the Crimean Committee as to the transport of the sick and wounded at Scutari and Balaklava, it is important that the public should be aware that at this very time, and upon our own shores, the sick are conveyed from our ships to the hospital in the most cruel, and careless manner. Even at Spithead we

find the alternative of men being laid up in a confined cockpit and spreading infection through a ship, perhaps through a fleet, at a moment when neither a ship nor a man can be spared, or of their being pulled on shore, fever-stricken and exhausted, in open boats. Surely, at each of our great naval ports there should be a service of hospital-boats. To arrest the chances of infection in the ships, and to convey the sick to the hospital with as much ease, comfort, and celerity as possible, seems to us to be a question of the simplest duty and of the first necessity.

AN EXPLANATION.

It is too bad of a semi-official paper, such as our inestimable contemporary, the *Globe*, to mystify the foreign press with feeble, but not harmless, pleasant-tries. A journal that enjoys the happy privilege of seeing that everything is good in every possible act of every possible ministry, on this side Toryism, has no business with joking. It is expected to be at least decently dull. What shall we think of a journal which is supposed to represent with due decorum the policy of the Whig Cabinet, placing at the head of a column usually devoted to the scrapings of Downing-street, a conspicuous paragraph in leaded type, to the effect that "we have been requested to state that the King of Prussia was accidentally shut out from the division at the Conference of Vienna." We quote the sense, if not the exact words, of the paragraph. This unseemly and not brilliant burlesque of parliamentary slang is an unpardonable indiscretion at such a crisis. It is not only a clumsy and misplaced insult to that king, who, however weak, is still strong enough to be courted by the Western Powers, it is an unjustifiable deception practised upon the good faith and simplicity of the continental journals, who have reasonable grounds for considering a journal like the *Globe* to be serious and circumspect. What would be thought of the *Moniteur* inserting a paragraph, *à la Chateaubriand*, at the head of its "Partie non officielle," immediately under a batch of Napoleonic decrees, or a state paper of M. Drouyn de Lhuys? Why, it would throw every Bourse of Europe into hysterics, and frighten even Downing-street from its propriety. Here is the careful and judicious *Debats* gravely accepting this paragraph of the *Globe* as if it were a sort of semi-official sop to the dignity of his Prussian Majesty, who is still to be coaxed. Here is *La Presse*, habitually keen and wide awake, solemnly taking note of this paragraph in the *Globe*, as an unaccountable postscript to Lord Lyndhurst's debate, which defies explanation, and which it does not pretend to solve. We can only request our French contemporaries to believe that the *Globe* is an *after-dinner* organ of the Ministry. Unfortunately this paragraph was perpetrated on the Day of Humiliation. Perhaps a fast day for the *Globe* is a day of fast writing. We would, however, suggest to our semi-official friend to desist from this species of "fast" paragraphs in future. They belong to the facetious columns of young Tory journals, to whom is permitted the desolate licence of Disraelites out of office. Nevertheless, we cannot help suggesting that if the *Debats* had called in M. John Lemoine, and if *La Presse* had consulted M. Alphonse Peyrat, this ridiculous mystification (the King of Prussia at the Vienna Conference!) would have been impossible. Either of these distinguished journalists would have easily seen through the Parliamentary slang of this sorry nonsense. But French journalists have, we fear, forgotten even the *blague* of Parliamentary institutions.

"THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.]

THE nation seems quite proud of its Day of Humiliation, in the belief that the sitting of Parliament down at St. Margaret's, on last Wednesday, has placated Providence and induced the favourable turn now visible in the news both from Balaklava and Vienna. It is such a struggle for that highly practical assembly, the House of Commons, to put on a pious air, that one may naturally look for surprising consequences, once the operation of going to church has been accomplished. Lord Palmerston, with his views about the Redemption—which he thinks the Home Minister of the period ought to have discouraged—could not be expected to see with any great neutrality the necessity of his spending a morning in the hideous

little church which is chapel to the House. And how still more severe must have been the energy evidenced by Mr. Disraeli in his dutiful attendance on Wednesday—when you could see that he was doing his best, as the leader of his side, to catch Providence's eye. It was a picture, a touching picture, to see the pains he took to pray as English Tory gentlemen pray to the God of the Jews. Here and there were consolations for him in the service; you could see that the eyelashes, carefully drooping over the livid cheek, were now and then raised in pleasant surprise when he found the ceremonial required that an English Tory Protestant gentleman should turn—to the East.

The discussion on the Tuesday evening was whether the interests of true religion would suffer if the populace were admitted to the national exhibitions on Sunday afternoons; and the Prayerful Wednesday turned up with appropriateness to illustrate the debate. The East that honourable gentlemen turned to—from the City-road to Rotherhithe—raged for beer, and from two to six blasphemed with a persistency that proved the blessing which we possess in half a dozen Reformed religions. Nevertheless, the desecration of the Sabbath is a capital cant; and, on Tuesday, nearly 300 gentlemen, every one of whom will be at parties—Lord Palmerston's and others—when next Sunday morning opens—decided, against forty-eight desecrators—gentlemen who never wait for the ballet on Saturday night operas—that it would be to cultivate national damnation if we let Mr. and Mrs. Brown and the children stroll about among pictures and statues, on Sundays, instead of staying in the domestic dark back-parlour to drink gin-and-water and get cross with one another. People are abusing Lord Palmerston for his "canting" speech on the subject. But that is ridiculous: the majority is Lord Palmerston's justification. It is a consciously religious country, and great statesmen—whose function it is, not to form, but to make use of public opinion—must not overlook cants—must obey the "religious public." In Persia the religious public likes periodical bonfires: and the Persian Prime Minister ordains an unlimited supply of fagots. In England our religious public likes certain corner houses, in its streets, to be closed, its theatres to be shut up, and its pictures and statues concealed from the general gaze;—and the clever Prime Minister, who will have his joke about it at a dinner-party, insists on the sanctity, expediency, and beauty of the superstition—and the 300 representatives of the mysterious class of gentlemen who wear white neck-cloths night and day, cheered. How hypocritical, says Jones of the *Daily Democrat*: Jones can tell you that the majority is made up of gentlemen who are not painfully ascetic, in the religious point of view—who keep *petites maisons*, are gamblers on the Stock Exchange, nobblers on the Turf, and loose everywhere. But the 300 are very sensible fellows to give in to the cant: it is not their business to enlighten the country—they are in Parliament, for certain purposes of their own, on condition of representing the average folly of English mankind. The folly is all on the side of the minority, who presumptuously affect to be wiser than their neighbours, and who pretend to sympathise with Mr. and Mrs. Brown, reduced to the alleviation of Sabbatical and compulsory gin-punch. The Liberals are all delighted with Lord Stanley's speech: so well delivered, so wide in its sympathies, so strong, so eloquent. Yet if we are to consider Lord Stanley as among our statesmen—the class who select the profession of managing the nation,—it was a very ridiculous speech: it will induce extra ounces of starch into the white neckcloth interest of the empire—it offends a party,—it risks power. The old Tories, who are frightfully suspicious of the young Tories—"their minds are filled with the trash of Disraeli's novels, Sir,"—go about sulkily talking of Lord Stanley—"a dangerous young man, Sir." And so he is: for if he goes on voting according to his logical conclusions, and not according to his party's interests, what the deuce is to become of the constitution? You can't govern a country,—complicated society, and so on,—on first principles; and Lord Stanley is taking comprehensively to first principles—the paternal dismay being doubtless that of an elderly hen who sees the goslings she has

hatched (under a misapprehension) taking to the water. Biggs quoting a few pages of Barry Cornwall to a hilarious House of Commons, was comic, on Tuesday: but not more ludicrous than sensible Lord Stanley was, in rising from the Tory opposition bench and delivering a speech which W. J. Fox had to compliment.

Even a cant ought not to be taken up but at particular times. Sir Robert Peel is quite right, in his position as a generous and amusing individuality, to "go in" for Poland and Hungary: but he was quite wrong to obtrude these intensely liberal sympathies of his on the town which he owns, and which he could and would empty if they didn't do what he told them, when he stood on the Tamworth hustings as a member of a Government. See the consequences. Lord Palmerston, compromised, has had to annihilate his egregious character as a Liberal, and, to the perplexity of whilom deputations, and of that large class of credulous Liberalisms whom poor Lord Dudley Stuart so nobly and so innocently represented, to announce that he does not contemplate disturbing the map market by wrenching Hungary and Poland into "Independence"—and "Independence" is what English Liberals who have no votes and no influence insist on for races of which they know nothing, and which, if they did, they would despise, upon the general ground usually taken by the Briton in his complacent survey of foreigners. Lord Palmerston un-liberalised himself with great vigour and boldness: there was no mistake about his emphatic repudiation of those "sympathies" which once recommended the bottle-holder to the favour of impulsive English Radicals: and, after this, let us hope we shall hear no more of his lordship's connexion with the Liberal party.

Lord Lyndhurst had one of his strange parliamentary successes on Tuesday. His speech does not read as very original matter: his facts were the newspaper facts of the day: his illustrations rather common-place: and his little bits of wit and small well-known Latin quotation from Virgil, impress one with the notion that this was the old business. But it is the physical triumph—of a man past eighty, blind and deaf, and yet able to speak out his sensible mediocrity with tolerable clearness, distinctness, and grace of manner and gesture, so as to command the attention of the Peers for a full hour—which must be admired. Then, Lord Lyndhurst indicates undecayed acuteness in seizing on so excellent a cant, for momentary purposes, as that which creates the British indignation with Prussia because she attends to her own rather than to English or Turkish interests. The morning papers say, it was an overwhelming exposure of the perfidy of the Berlin Court and public. Lord Lyndhurst, in act, proved against Prussia precisely that case which German politicians have so often urged against England:—so ready is one nation to detect political unworthiness in another nation. When Lord Chatham sent Mr. Hans Stanley to Berlin, to ask for the alliance of the new monarchy against France, the great Frederick said—"Your Ministers are too dishonest, and your people too changeable, to allow me to trust to such an alliance—I dare not depend on you." Any well-read Frenchman will show any Englishman that the history of England is the conquest of selfishness—that her success is the success of falsity, and plunder, and relentless commercial despotism. The English Liberal, who assumes too much for his own country, and who is sympathetic with Slavonians even at times when Great Britain has Irish, Ionian, Kaffir, and Indian insurrections and wars on hand, is frequently inclined to be an illogical animal: and it does not become so wise an assembly of statesmen as the House of Peers unquestionably is to be encouraging the old lawyers of its body in vindication of "eternal justice" in practical European politics.

The Newspaper Stamp Bill debate on Monday was only remarkable for a further development of the absolute incapacity of the accomplished Sir Cornwall Lewis to carry on a great department in the House of Commons. He cannot speak—that is the whole truth—and it is of no use having a mere man of genius to think—a Chancellor of the Exchequer must be able to talk. Various circumstances render it doubtful if the measure can become law: but the great danger is in the fact that the Minister in charge of the bill has no resolution of character, and cannot fight the bill through its dangerous stage—committee. That it is a good bill is of no account: there are triumphant cants in its way. The cant that the existing press is of the "highest character" in Europe is, perhaps, the most awful. This is an objection against change put forward by the provincial newspaper proprietors—proprietors of petty little concerns which, intellectually, are below contempt, and which, commercially, exist either by

"consulting" the "requests" of advertisers, or by pandering to the prevailing twaddle of some parochial potentate, either a magistrate or a clergyman of the neighbourhood. Even in London the press of Paris is the dear press of London is intellectually inferior: this a Manager of the *Times* admitted, as his opinion, to the committee of '52: and what "character" can you assert for the versatile *Times*, if it be not a character for cleverness? Where is the character of the serenely stupid and vulgar morning paper which bids for the knowledgeable approval of the metropolitan tap-room,—or of the antithetical "fashionable" organ, which "lives" upon the paid paragraphs scattered by house-stewards chronicling the dismal epic of a dull great party? What character have the other morning papers but that of abundant obedience to "party" dictation—party organs being necessarily un-national and anti-chivalric. As to the weekly papers, which are making themselves conspicuous for conduct so copiously abused in Protectionism—where is their character? What is now the *Examiner*—still so well able to be witty, vigorous, and original—but a contented parasite of the *Times*?—all its political and literary ambition apparently gratified in being noticed by its great contemporary—in adulation of the "high character" of a journal which, because it is conducted by men who comprehend their country, has but one *morale*—never to be in a minority. A cheap press may not be astonishingly intellectual, or recklessly honest: but for servility of imitation—not so bad as "piracy," of course—and fulsome of flunkeyism—commend us to weekly journals which are in dread that an unstamped press would vulgarise London journalism.

"A STRANGER"

Open Council.

IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.

HINTS TO THE ADMIRALTY.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Portsmouth, March 11.

SIR,—The sanitary condition of the British fleet must always be an object of primary importance to the British nation. Allow me to bring before your notice the following instance of misplaced economy. On the other side of this harbour stands a most noble edifice, a monument of the interest this nation takes in the welfare of our sick and wounded seamen, Haslar Hospital. It is approached by a sinuous inlet about half a mile in length, the navigation of which (even for boats) is difficult, the mud on either side of the channel (about twenty yards broad) being left dry at low-water. The entire distance from the hospital to the Victory must be about a mile, from the hospital to the fleet at Spit-head about two and a-half miles. Will you believe that to traverse this distance there is no hospital boat—that is, no boat covered in? I am told that this is not the fault of the local authorities, that a boat of this description has been frequently applied for, but refused on account of the expense; that is because the Lords of the Admiralty feared the Brighto-Cobden spirit of the House of Commons might be irritated through their proposing such an innovation. I have not heard that this wholesome dread ever induced them to propose a diminution in their own salaries.

It is only due to Messrs. Cobden and Bright to state, that in my recollection no objection has ever been made to any reasonable improvement of the sort I allude to; their objections have been mainly to useless works, and to the increase of our naval effective force. In the first the majority of your readers will concur. As to the second, you, at least, have always opposed them.

You will oblige me by lending your powerful aid to rectify this anomaly, and as, of course, some expense must be incurred by the country in doing so, allow me to point out a way by which fifty times the amount expended can be saved. It is probable that our Baltic fleet will this year (as they did in '54) pass a considerable time off the island of Nargen, situated between Revel and Helsingfors. This island is covered with wood the property of the Emperor of Russia. A hundred men landed from a line-of-battle ship will cut and stack at least fifty tons of wood per diem; the seamen will be amply recompensed for their extra work by a shilling a day, and great will be the competition for such employment. Allowing a ton of coal to do as much as five tons of wood, the expense of fuel equal to a ton of the former will only be ten shillings, whereas last year we paid from thirty to forty shillings for coal, and sometimes a good bit more. The steamers can embark the wood as easily as they can the coal, and we shall have fewer instances of demurrage of colliers. Trusting you will persuade the Admiralty to allow these two suggestions to take effect, I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THERE are many of our readers who will be glad to learn that the fourth and last volume of AUGUSTE COMTE's *Système de Politique Positive* has appeared; a volume which contains the *Tableau synthétique de l'avenir humain*, for the benefit of those who delight in arranging the Future according to systematic views, and who have accepted the Religion which COMTE assures us he has "founded." Into that vast subject we cannot enter; we have neither space nor interest. Utopias from PLATO to CABET have had but a mediocre charm for us; and COMTE as the founder of a Religion is quite a different kind of personage from COMTE the teacher of Philosophy. It appears, moreover, from the conclusion to this volume, that COMTE finds himself in a dynastic difficulty: he is a Prophet without a successor. The Religion is founded, the Catechism is arranged, the worship is instituted, and yet the Founder, now that age suggests the necessity of his appointing a "worthy successor," declares himself incapable of finding such a successor. The three disciples of his Philosophy on whom his hopes were founded, have all refused to accept his Religion; whereupon he calls them three *Littérateurs*—a name of reproach from his lips. He thus speaks of them: "A celebrated Logician was the first to proclaim the mental superiority of the new philosophy, especially in reference to Method. He was soon followed by the clever writer who, placed in the centre of civilisation, was better able to seize the *ensemble* of a mission no less social than intellectual. After him came the young Hellenist, who created the history of Philosophy in connecting it always with the necessary advent of Positivism. But although all three have justly augmented their importance by popularising the new doctrine, we can verify in their exceptional cases the impotence of the literary class to furnish true apostles to the regenerating faith." The three writers alluded to are JOHN MILL, LITRE, and LEWES. He was very proud of his colleagues while they propagated his views; but when he shot ahead, and passed from philosophy into priestcraft, and they refused to follow, he saw that his hopes had been baseless: they were *littérateurs*, and he disowned them. "All three," he says, "in spite of partial affinities which seemed to be decisive, have finally shown themselves incapable of surmounting their Protestant origin and their revolutionary habits. Although he had nobly commenced the public appreciation of Positivism, the first of the three soon invented the tactics of opposing my philosophic foundation to my religious construction. The second, some months after I had proclaimed him my principal colleague, abandoned the Positive Society. Less incomplete than these two, the third, nevertheless, showed a more deplorable verification of the want of consistence peculiar to *littérateurs* by his irrevocable adhesion to the most despicable of all systems of theological hypocrisy." What these gentlemen will say to being thus deprived of a succession for which they seem to have manifested no ambition, we do not know; but it will form a piquant detail in the anecdotic part of the history of philosophy to narrate how the French MAHOMET was in want of an ALI,—and an ally!

The last number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* contains an article on the Zouaves, which will be read with considerable interest now those brilliant soldiers are almost as interesting to England as to France. The article narrates the origin and progress of these regiments, and their *faits et gestes*. It was in 1830, when General CLAUDEL took command of the *armée d'Afrique*, that the two first battalions of Zouaves were formed. They were composed of the Arabs from the Kabyles, with a nucleus of adventurous *enfants de Paris*, and officered by young Frenchmen of ability and tried courage. The name of LAMORICIERE is enough to show what these officers were. Since then, DUVIVIER, BESSIERES, CANROBERT, LEPLÔ, SAINT ARNAUD, and CAYAGNAC have commanded these troops. Their costume is typical of the union of the oriental and Parisian elements; their habits of warfare are partly those of Arabs and partly of Frenchmen. They can do everything, and do it. They "climb like cats to fight like lions." They can cook, sew, garden, bivouac, march, and fight better than any other troops in the army; and their history, as here narrated, is a real romance of war.

In the same number there is an article, by JOHN LEMOINNE, on "England and the War," in which the strong as well as the weak side of our situation is felicitously indicated. We have a method of cure, he says, which, excellent for robust constitutions, would be fatal to one less robust; and that method is our pitiless publicity, our inexorable insistence to know the whole extent of our disease. Unlimited publicity is, in itself, a proof of strength; *un peuple qui se traite aussi énergiquement est sûr de se relever*. He points out how utterly unprepared we were for the war, how unwilling the Ministry was to go to war, how nothing but national feeling forced the Ministry by "pressure from without," and how much more national the war feeling is in England than in France. He does not say that the French people are not possessed with this feeling, but he says they are less so than the English. We believe it is nearer the truth to say the French people are not at all enthusiastic about

the war. He attributes the difference to our gigantic publicity. In France there is no such thorough filtration of news, down to the lowest classes, as in England. With us every cottage finds the name of one who sat at its hearth become a part of history. History no longer confines its dignified narrative to the exploits of generals and mighty names. The common soldier has his chronicler; very often the common soldier is the chronicler himself. The people has ceased to be anonymous. M. LEMOINNE tells the old story of our wretched military organisation and our splendid military heroism. If the system is miserable, the race is matchless. The system is a bureaucracy, and M. LEMOINNE is justly astonished that the most progressive people on the earth should be so obstinately attached to its conservatism of old trivialities. He would leave us the Lord Mayor's coach and the Speaker's wig, if we could be satisfied with them and not demand the conservatism of more pernicious remains of the past. He sees, however, that our conservatism, in many directions, is all of a piece with our constitution. Ours is an aristocratic country; this renders purchase in the army possible, and rising from the ranks impossible.

However the war may affect Literature during the coming year, it is pretty certain that we have already outlived the tremendous rush of "Books on the War." That subject is tolerably exhausted. Russians and Turks, the Crimea and the state of the Danube, need no more slip-slop and compilation. The money we have to spend on books may be spent on good books. The time we have for reading may be given to what is worth reading. Even Philosophy may hold up her head again; her placid countenance will be welcome. Nay even Psychology seems to have taken courage, for we learn that HERBERT SPENCER has at length gone to press with his *Principles of Psychology*, a work many readers of this journal will look forward to with unusual interest.

M. PONSARD, the dramatic writer, the author of *Lucrèce*, *Charlotte Corday*, *L'Honneur et l'Argent*, *Agnès de Méranie*, one of the chiefs of that *école du bon sens* which may be generally described as a bourgeois-classical school, being less a reaction in favour of the pure classicists than against the roman-ticists, has been elected as the successor to the vacant chair of M. BAOUR-LORMIAN in the French Academy. M. BAOUR-LORMIAN was an academician of the time of the First Empire, a translator of the Bible and of Tasso, and, we believe, the author of a tragedy, but better known for his unpublished epigrams. The competitors of M. PONSARD were M. EMILE AUGIER and M. LIAIDIÈRES. M. AUGIER having had the misfortune to occupy a quasi-official position under the present régime, only obtained five votes; M. LIAIDIÈRES, also a dramatist of some distinction, seven; and M. PONSARD, sixteen.

Mr. THACKERAY's Lecture on Humour and Charity, delivered at the Marylebone Institution on behalf of ANGUS REACH, may be counted among the happiest appearances of our great humorist. He might have taken for his text that admirable saying of VAUVENARGUES, "*Les grandes pensées viennent du cœur*." That peculiar quality of the Anglo-Saxon genius which we call humour, and which is so little understood abroad, has never, we think, been so perfectly defined as by Mr. THACKERAY on this occasion: "a combination of wit and love."

RICHARD LALOR SHEIL.

Sketches, Legal and Political, by the late Right Honourable R. L. Sheil. Edited, with Notes, by M. W. Savage. Hurst and Blackett.

At a party at Lady Blessington's the conversation turned upon fame; the conversation was interesting, for the majority present were famous men. "For my part," said Mr. Benjamin Disraeli, "I have always entertained a profound indifference to posthumous fame." "Ah," said Mr. S— L—, with a severe sneer, "you can afford that contempt—you are so sure of immortality, Mr. Disraeli!" It seems to us that this suggests the method by which men determine the old question of the value of fame. A Napoleon now and then appeals to posterity; a Wagner here and there, being unintelligible to his contemporaries, composes for the benefit of the longer ears of a more distant epoch. But the average famous man lives in the present and for the present—with as small a conception of posterity as he has of heaven. The idea of after-judgment upon him never crosses him; he would shudder if he thought his works or deeds were to be criticised apart from him—separate from the influence of his individuality. And of the great mass of those who obtain eminence it is only fair to judge of them by the estimation in which they were held in their own time. A man's book is but a moderate and modified revelation of himself: for instance, what rank would Dr. Johnson hold now-a-days, if we were to judge of him merely by his writings? or how ridiculous would appear the Whig party's exaltation of Charles Fox, if we were to look merely to his speeches and bit of History instead of to his enormous personal influence?

In the cases of those—and Richard Lalor Sheil is among them—who, conscious of their deficiency in that strength which carries a name into the future, have alone laboured to be the personages of the hour, a great injustice is done by the fussy executors who insist upon disentombing the notoriety and protruding pleas for fame. Sheil was known simply as an Irish politician and a House of Commons debater; he delighted in his reputation in these capacities; and, being dead, his friends come forward, uninvited, and to show what an admirable person he was—reprint his magazine articles! Here, in these two wretched volumes, are some sketches he wrote when he was about thirty; in very large type, but still very poor stuff, and

not having even the value of being marked by Sheil's style—for they were written artificially for an English periodical which hesitated to give the name or nature of its contributor—then a fierce young Irish papist.

The sketches are about some Irish judges, barristers, and politicians of the period, the whole of whom are now forgotten, even in Ireland, and they deal with a state of society as obsolete as feudalism. What purpose, then, does such a publication as this fulfil? It may have an Irish justification: it is to be followed by some volumes containing the great speeches.

Irish politicians have had bad chances of fame. Provincially they are the heroes or victims of exaggerated adulation or delusive indignation; but, as personages of the empire, they are only known in connexion with some transitional excitement of a moment—forgotten and powerless when the excitement has gone. And when Grattan is not remembered, what hope can there be for Sheil? We have the opinion of his contemporaries that Grattan was an unsurpassed orator, and he lived in the English age of orators: and we know that his Roman style was accompanied by a classic grandeur of character—in all the wanton wildness of faction his public honour and private virtue have continued unimpaired. And he lived and acted in the history of Ireland, from Lord Charlemont to Castlereagh; he saw the beginning and the end of Irish independence—the Volunteers and the Union. Sheil, who caught without ever understanding his style—just as some of our dramatists will still write in the Elizabethan metre and manner—was a very different sort of man—a conspirator and intriguer, not a statesman—and he lived through a vulgar and debasing era—that of O'Connell. Sheil's is still a name, in Ireland and in London. We remember the singular figure—the heap of old clothes and the brilliant Celtic eye—the startling voice, the weird gestures, the mot and the epigram. But in ten years more, Irishmen will know as little about him as they now remember of Lord Plunkett, and Englishmen will be as vague about him, one of their past parliamentary personages, as they at present are about Daniel Whittle Harvey or Mr. Wakley—Sheil's eminent contemporaries, yet both already shadows.

No such particular veneration is due as to induce us to allow Mr. Savage to bully us for a place for him in the Pantheon. His career was not chivalric. He commenced as a passionate patriot, and he ended his Parliamentary career as a careful placeman under the Whigs, voting meekly for Coercion Acts, suspension of Habeas Corpus, and indiscriminate slaughter of poor young Irishmen who had gone mad with the poems of Moore and the speeches of Emmet and Sheil. Voting, as a formality, to the last, for Repeal, which, if it meant anything, meant republicanism, he died, as Lord Palmerston's dutiful great British and hyper-Protestant partisan, as Minister at Florence. He adored O'Connell, who detested the Whigs; but he served the Whigs. He used to weep when he spoke of the wrongs of Ireland; but what he took care not to face was an Irish meeting, and what he contrived was to get elected by a borough which was in a Whig duke's pocket. He was temptuously poetical; but he married a rich widow. He was a vehement Liberal; but the Whig whipper-in was always safe of his vote, and Lord Palmerston was always sure of his speech when anybody had anything to say against Lord Palmerston. He has often been compared to his friend Moore; and in this respect—this cool desertion of the "cause" they were for ever twaddling about—their careers were identical; and, doubtless, the poetic, as distinguished from the commonplace, logical, nature, must excuse them—at least it has always done so in the eyes of Lansdownes and Palmerstons, to whom they were pre-eminently useful. It is, indeed, impossible to expect public honesty in such cases. It is a singular fact that all the brilliant Irishmen have been politically rather roguish; and it is to be accounted for by the circumstance that the capital of the empire somewhat overshadows Dublin. You can no more, in our age, expect that a clever Irish gentleman will pass his life in a practical bewailing over the sorrows of Erin, than in the days of the Cæsars you could expect Spanish or Carthaginian gentlemen to become martyrs to their lunatic nationality. What do we see at this moment? That Ireland, impoverished even in that staple, has to import her patriots! For isn't Mr. Lucas her patriot?

Mr. Sheil's intellectual qualifications were not first-rate. He tried many things, and got the first place in no instance. He wrote plays which were not playable—even by Miss O'Neill. He tried light literature, and in these volumes you see with what success. He once worked hard at the bar, but was without that robust, man-of-the-world tact—the greatest of all talents—which produces the personal influence that results in fees and smiles. In the House of Commons he was never more than the partisan warrior, useful for his rhetorical daring which never spared a foe, and amusing from the exquisite fineness of his well-prepared phrases. In the proper sense of the term he was no debater; on the other hand, he spoke with no party effect, for he represented nothing but a few hours' work in getting up a speech that would gratify himself; and though he made some splendid speeches, as that on the Dissenters' Chapels Bill, the peroration of which is unsurpassed in our time, yet he was no orator, for he always set himself to astonish, never to convince, his hearers.

As a statesman in council, those who knew him well speak of him as innocent and ignorant to the last—never comprehending affairs—never equal to managing them. But, then, he was a great "agitator." In truth, he lived on that fame—the Mr. Sheil of 1822-1848 being supported by the Mr. Sheil of 1825-1830. Yet in the Catholic Association he was insignificant when contrasted with the burly potency of that grand mass of virile intellect—O'Connell. O'Connell used to "let him off" and talk of Sheil's "fire-works." O'Connell could be pathetic, but not eloquent; powerful, but not scholarly; and Sheil was invaluable to him as the maker of speeches, which the puzzled mob roared applause at, but which the students of the country pronounced direct emanations of inspired genius—speeches which redeemed much of the movement from vulgarity. The Whigs were astonished that Sheil was considered in Ireland inferior to O'Connell: O'Connell was so "vulgar," Sheil so splendid; O'Connell only a droll, Sheil a wit; the one more plain talk, the other all sparkle. And Sheil was undoubtedly on the old Irish model—that of Wolfe, Emmet, Plunkett, Grattan; Sheil, also, taking a better place (even in Opposition) in the House of Commons than O'Connell ever obtained. But nations are good

judges of the men they want. O'Connell was a man of genius, Sheil only a man of talent; and just as the coarse Luther made the Reformation, and the ornate Melancthon could but illustrate it, so Sheil, famous for no more than the "Catholic Emancipation" which emancipated no one, will never be spoken of but as the lieutenant of O'Connell. On the whole, it is the finest trait in Sheil's history that he ever reverently recognised the greatness of the massive man who, at Conciliation Hall, put his tongue in his cheek and hinted to Dungarvon something about "Dicky Sheil."

We trust that Mr. Savage will exercise careful discrimination in his arrangement of the next volumes. One erasure perhaps would suffice.

FOUR NOVELS.

Thorney Hall: A Story of an Old Family. By Holme Lee.

The Family Feud. By Adam Hornbook.

The Exile; or, A Tale of the Sixteenth Century. By Philip Phosphorus.

Our World; or, The Democrat's Rule. By Justin, a Know-nothing.

Smith and Elder

Routledge

Bosworth

Sampson Low and Son

In reference to the novel standing first on our list, we must confess to having felt some doubt whether "Holme Lee" might not be an assumed name, and whether the story might not most probably have been written by a lady instead of a gentleman. On these two points it is, of course, likely enough that we may have guessed wrong—on a third point, however, which concerns the merit of the book, we feel little or no distrust of our judgment. We can confidently pronounce *Thorney Hall*, whether written by a man or a woman, to be one of the most charming novels of its class which has issued from the English press for a long, long time past. The story is told in the autobiographical form, with such delightful taste, simplicity, and truth to nature; it runs so delicately and smoothly through the book; and it is graced and recommended to the reader in every page by such unaffected ease and masterly clearness of style, that we must decline, in common justice to the author, risking any attempt to describe it within the circumscribed limits of the present notice. We will answer for its effect on the hearts of all readers of feeling, old as well as young—and that is enough. The characters cannot claim the merit, in any case, of being original creations; but they are developed with admirable truth of observation, and with genuinely artistic skill of suggestion: they lay fast hold of the reader's attention and interest on their first introduction, and look new by mere virtue of unadorned natural treatment. The picture of the watch-maker's family in the early part of the book is a real gem; and there is a love-disappointment, happening to the eldest daughter, who narrates the story of the Old Family, which is told with a tenderness, delicacy, and quiet touching earnestness worthy of the highest praise and the sincerest admiration.

One blemish only have we detected in this delightful novel—the death of one of the characters is made to take place at the battle of the Alma. We must own to some disappointment at finding that the war-fever, which has had so disastrous an influence in making our literature a literature of catch-penny books, should have infected, though only in a very slight degree, such an otherwise genuine piece of work as *Thorney Hall*. We can accept "Alma Restaurants," "Alma Cottages," and newly-christened "Alma Joneses," as inevitable temporary nuisances; but an Alma catastrophe at the end of an excellent novel, is an ill-considered concession to passing public interests, and a blemish of clap-trap on a work of pure and high art which it sadly disappoints us to see. Excepting this one defect, however, we have not another fault to find with "Holme Lee's" story; and we have only to assure our readers (who must be well aware, by this time, that we are not in the habit of misleading them by indiscriminate praise of "books on our table"), that they may all procure for themselves an evening's reading of the most interesting and most delightful kind, by ordering *Thorney Hall*.

Our next book is of a very different order of writing. *The Family Feud* shows in many passages the promise, rather than the performance, of good things. The author has power and dramatic feeling, but his faculties are at present of the wild and ill-regulated kind. He has yet to rid himself of some very absurd notions on the subject of Romance-writing, which he defends in an unprofitably flippant way in an "Address" to the reader. Mr. "Adam Hornbook's" present principle of working is not to confine himself to any particular method of telling a story; but to give the reader the benefit of variety by speaking sometimes in his own person as author, sometimes in his hero's person (in the way of autobiography), and sometimes impersonally, in the regular narrative form. The hero of the *Family Feud*, "Cain Colton," begins with telling his own story (and some of it is very well, too). By the time we are getting interested in it, Mr. "Adam Hornbook," the author, peeps in, and obliges us by silencing the autobiographer, and continuing the narrative in his own person because he is "afraid" that he cannot make his own "hero" do justice to his own story! Comment is superfluous on such an absurd misconception of the art of romance-writing as this. Fancy an exhibitor of Punch, stopping the action of his puppets just as they were beginning to amuse the bystanders; drawing up his concealment of green baize; and saying:—"For fear you should forget, good people, that these puppets are really puppets, and only move because I pull their strings, I will continue the play in 'my own person' by keeping the green baize up, and giving you a view of me and my nimble hands. Punch, as a self-agent, is all very well for a little while—but a sight of the man who makes Punch move is an important addition to vary your pleasure, and increase your interest in the dramatic entertainment. If any critical persons present should venture to hint that I am interfering a little with that Illusion of the Scene on which the effect of all works of imagination entirely depends, don't believe them. It is a dictate against which I protest, as flowing from the false taste of this artificial and corrupt age!" What would the "Adam Hornbook" say to such a speech as this? Probably he would answer, just at present, that it was a most sensible piece of oratory; and that the last sentence in particular was such a model of eloquent indignation, that he should be delighted to introduce it into the preface to the *Family Feud*. We have, however, a sufficiently sincere conviction of his natural capacity, to believe that he will alter his opinion one of these days, and produce a novel which shall be a work of art.

mind power and uninterrupted interest—in other words, really a work of art.

The two last books on our list do not require any very lengthened criticism. The *Erle* is evidently, what it is asserted to be in the Preface—the work of a young writer; who, we may add, has the hard preparatory part of his profession as an author still to pass through. Under these circumstances, we will not go the length of passing any final judgment just yet on the gentleman who writes under the not very happily-chosen “fancy name” of “Philip Phosphorus.” We infinitely prefer the more lenient course of giving him time to try again. He has evidently devoted much industry to the collection of historical materials for his present tale, and has been sincerely anxious to turn them to the best romantic use. We would recommend him, when next he tries his pen, to be rather less modestly careful to model his work according to those “established precedents” towards which he has hitherto looked with such deep respect. He should remember that the first and greatest of historical novelists, Sir Walter Scott, wrote according to no “precedents,” but invented for himself, and consequently revolutionized the fictitious literature of Europe. It is good even for the smallest author to try if he cannot at least imitate, in some degree, the self-dependence of the greatest. As to *One in a Thousand* and *Crickton*—which we are astonished to find Mr. “Philip Phosphorus” actually classing in his Preface with such a masterpiece as *Quentin Durward*!—the less reverently our young author looks to that kind of historical novel-writing the better it will be for his future prospects with the romance-readers of the present day.

Our *World* is another American book against slavery, with some hard back-handed hits at democracy, “down South.” Our world over here in England has had enough of *Uncle Tomie* (as the French phrase is), and this book is not likely to stimulate afresh the satiated national appetite. The author unquestionably possesses great knowledge of his subject, and discloses his slave-horrors with honest, hearty, and sometimes most vigorous indignation against the slave system, and all who uphold it. But he writes, either in such a hurry, or with such overpoweringly-strong feelings, that he has no time to cultivate the graces, or even the intelligibility of style. He dashes along haphazard, beginning sentences in one tense and ending them in another, confounding antecedents and relatives, careless of tautology, and reckless of Lindley Murray. Between his carelessness as a writer and the intensely Yankee character of the language—it certainly is not English—in which he writes, he is frequently entirely unintelligible to the native British reader. For example, a slave-owner is denying that niggers have souls, and a reverend deacon answers him in this incomprehensible sentence:—“The fact of proving your theory would be rendered difficult if you were to transcend upon the scale of blood.” Again, an indignant woman-slave, on being reminded that she is liable to be sold, answers enigmatically to a free young lady: “To sell me! Had you measured the depth of pain in that ward, Franconia, your lips had never given it utterance. To sell me! ‘Tis that. The difference is wide indeed, but the point is sharper.” Sentences of this kind, and sentences filled with the most astounding Americanisms, abound in the book. It would have been only charitable to the author to have had his work revised by some careful “Britisher” before publishing it in England.

RURAL ECONOMY.

The Rural Economy of England, Scotland, and Ireland. By Léonce de Lavergne. Translated from the French, with Notes by a Scotch Farmer.

William Blackwood and Sons.

It is only of recent date that agriculture has been allowed to assume her true position among the industrial arts. When population was thin, and the land unexhausted, the part taken by the farmer in the production of corn, and the raising of cattle, was not such as to entitle him to claim authorship in respect to them. He did little more than scratch the surface, scatter the seed, and wait for harvest; than allow his cattle and sheep to wander at will on the meadows and uplands till he wanted them for slaughter. He used such seed as suited his soil, never dreaming that he might suit the soil to the seed; he left his cattle very much to themselves in the rutting season, took such fleece and flesh as they yielded spontaneously, and as long as there was enough to eat and be clothed with, in however simple a style, he was highly thankful. But when population increased, and the necessity for a greater produce became pressing, these old “arts” of culture were found insufficient; and then, as at all times, necessity proved the mother of invention. Inventions and innovations followed Want, and in their turn made an increase of population both possible and desirable. England, which under the Stuarts was barely able to feed itself, was thus able a hundred years later to support a doubled population, and at the same time to export nearly a million quarters of corn. But even the means which wrought this great change in her economy were destined to be proved insufficient in their turn, and superseded by higher methods. Under the Stuarts England hardly produced two million quarters of wheat; in the reign of George the Second—the middle of last century—this produce had already doubled; and now, under Victoria, we are advancing from thirteen million quarters! And it is highly probable that this enormous produce of wheat from English lands will be doubled within the next half century by means of high-farming. With this immense increase in production, population has fairly kept pace; it has doubled since 1800, and in some districts even tripled; so that the pressure under which all this progress has been made is no less now than it was in the days of the Charleses. Thus the agricultural revolution which has been silently working itself out during the last hundred years, is as yet incomplete. Rural economy, and all the arts of increasing production, are still eagerly studied, from necessity, by a people constantly pressing on the Malthusian limit. Here at least, if nowhere else, agriculture has had her true place assigned to her, with capital, skill, and modern science as her handmaidens.

While such has been the case in regard to agriculture in England, its progress elsewhere has been steady, if not so rapid, and if not in a parallel direction. In France, from many causes, the revolution has

been less complete, and—if the phrase may be permitted—different in kind. In the period within which our population has doubled, that of France has increased only by a fourth, and than this of population there is no better test of a nation's progress in the arts of production. The explanation of this disparity is to be sought for in a variety of considerations. The nature of the land and climate favours France; the causes of its retardation, therefore, must be closely connected with its political and civil history, and the temperament and habits of its people; and there is no doubt that its unsettled state, its long and bloody revolutions, and bad governments in times of peace, go far to explain the neglected state of its agriculture. But there is still another cause for our superiority more important even than this of government. The causes of the wealth and greatness of nations began to be understood with us earlier than with our neighbours. Among us too appeared Arkwright and Watt to give us the first chance of working out economic theories; and no sooner did commerce and manufactures begin to advance than agriculture received an impulse which has never since ceased to influence it; and what the above-named ingenious men did for trade and manufactures, was effected by Arthur Young and Bakewell for agriculture. Steam navigation and railways have contributed in the highest degree to this progress by throwing all the markets of the country and the world equally open to our farmers, and thus rendering the growth of large towns—trading and manufacturing centres—an advantage to the whole body of agriculturists, whereas, with the old methods of transport, they would have benefited only such as were in their immediate vicinity. Thus, then, our advantage over our neighbours the French has resulted from a confluence of circumstances, including our commercial and manufacturing prosperity as well as our superior political and civil institutions.

High-farming constitutes the last phase of the agricultural revolution which we have indicated above. In this the old distinctions between agriculture and the manufacturing industries are being gradually lost. It would perplex our grandfathers could they hear us speaking of corn and flesh as manufactured articles. A little reflection, however, would have convinced them that, in spite of the apparent unnaturalness of the designation, and of the revolt from its application to products immediately animal, such as beef, it was just and philosophic nevertheless. The difficulty experienced by some even now in conceding the propriety of this use of terms, arises chiefly from two causes: the first, that they see in agriculture “nature” directly relied upon for her active co-operation; and the second, that the result is “organic,” whereas in most of the articles commonly called manufactured nature's interference is indirect, at least insensible, and the result “inorganic,” as was also the material from which it was formed. But small consideration is necessary to perceive that in all cases wherein use is made of chemical agents, of light, heat, steam, electricity, and so forth, nature is relied upon for active co-operation as well as in the cultivation of corn or the raising of cattle—in the former directly to produce new compounds, in the latter by differentiation of cells and tissues to produce new compounds also—the art consisting in either case in bringing together the necessary materials under circumstances favourable to the production of the desired result. And thus nature being similarly depended upon in both cases, though for dissimilar actions, the first ground of objection is avoided; and the second, there is no doubt, is nothing more nor less than a prejudice based on the circumstance that, the objects being “organic” products themselves, sympathise with their kind, and prefer not to rank with manufactures! Whatever may be said to the contrary, a grain of corn, a turnip from Mr. Meech's farm, or a bullock from his stalls, is as much a work of art as the Apollo Belvidere; and, in another point of view, as much a manufacture as a Drummagem pop-gun!

High-farming is the latest attempt at a solution of the problem, How to get from the land the largest amount of food and of other necessities, while yielding the largest profit to the farmer and rent to the proprietor? Along with the necessity of feeding the population is another: that it shall be done at a certain price. Thus it becomes a question how to increase production, and at the same time lower its cost so as to make it profitable. To the solution of this, agriculture has called in the aid of capital, science, and skill; and to the aid of these, enterprise. The solution presented by these, stated briefly in a receipt, is as follows:—Convert all pasturage lands and meadows into arable fields; to fertilise these, drain them thoroughly, and grow artificial grasses and roots; on which feed as much live stock as, with the addition of artificial food—oil-cakes, &c.—you can. To fatten your stock, prevent them taking exercise, coping them up in stalls; feed them there faithfully and unsparingly as above, carefully preserving their manure, with which, enriched by chemical adjuncts if necessary, fatten your fields. This receipt, to follow which requires much skill and capital, is said to lead to miraculous results, enabling the farmer to nearly double his produce in cereals, and more than double his profits from live stock. It must be confessed, however, that this high-farming suggests many delicate considerations, not as regards the profitableness of draining, the use of machinery, or the system of manuring, which are all excellent, but in respect to stabulation or stall-feeding, which is the key to the entire scheme. It may not matter whether our pastures are or are not to be abandoned—the loss of green fields will be amply compensated by the duplication of the arable lands; it may not matter, except to some artists of the Cooper and Lee school, should cattle be no longer allowed to wade in pools, or lie “huddled on the lea”—the injury to the sentimentality of a few will be more than counterbalanced by the quadruplication of the yearly supply of beef and mutton. But what is to be feared is, that this hot-house system of forcing cattle with cooked victuals selected for their fattening qualities, with little regard to their wholesomeness, may at some date, not far in advance of the “success” of the high-farming revolution, be prejudicial to the public health, as there is ground for fearing it will soon deteriorate the breed of the poor beasts who are manufactured by the above process into butcher-meat. Besides this, the new life of these creatures is grievously pitiable. The sight of some hundreds of them coped up, with their blubbery bulks, in narrow stalls lest they should lose weight by exercise, is exceedingly disgusting. One not actually engaged in this beef factory can scarcely sit

down to carve a joint after the spectacle—he loathes the very sight of butcher meat; nor is this natural revulsion easily overcome by reflection. This, however, is beside the question. The staple food of England must be manufactured in some way, and if it appears, hereafter, that this method is as safe as it is profitable, its inventor will rank among our greatest benefactors.

M. Lavergne's work, the title of which heads this article, is concerned with the questions lying in, or connected with, what we have above written. His Essay, as the preface informs us, is a fragment of the course of lectures which he had undertaken, for instruction in Rural Economy, at the Agricultural National Institute in France, and is rather a practical demonstration of the utility of the science than a preceptive work on it. M. Lavergne chose for this demonstration the British Isles, as well because of the advanced state of agriculture here, as because it affords so many points of contact and departure, of comparison and contrast, with that of his own country. In the course of this demonstration he surveys the whole of Britain, from south to north, showing an intimate acquaintance with it and with us, but affecting, it must be noticed, to be in possession of reliable statistics concerning the state of our agriculture as regards expenditure, profit, and produce, which we ourselves do not pretend to have, and only hope in the course of the present year to acquire. It is but fair, however, to mention that in regard to farming in Scotland, M. Lavergne has followed the tables drawn up by Mr. Smith, which would appear from the recently published report of the Scottish Agricultural Statistics Society to be tolerably correct, at least as compared with the imaginary figures of Mr. McCulloch. The moral of the statistics just obtained in Scotland is, that great statisticians are, generally, great impostors, as will appear from the following table; and there is reason to believe that the errors made in estimating English produce will be found to be indefinitely greater than those here shown:—

	McCulloch.	Smith.	Ascertained.
Wheat.....	1,225,000	660,000	606,062
Barley.....	1,300,000	980,000	954,950
Oats.....	6,500,000	5,737,000	4,231,789
Beans and Pease.....	150,000	300,000	135,115
	9,675,000	7,677,000	5,927,916

Here we find Mr. Smith, M. Lavergne's authority, making an error of nearly two million quarters over the small area cultivated in Scotland. It is, therefore, plainly impossible to say what the value of M. Lavergne's results may be. We are safe in adding that his style is admirably clear, and his judgments sound, so far as they can at present be tested; while it is no rare merit in a foreigner that he so thoroughly appreciates our institutions, history, and idiosyncracies, and is so familiar with our literature as to have written a book on England, as full of instruction and interest for Englishmen as for his own countrymen. From a work like M. Lavergne's, which is mainly an enumeration and analysis of a multiplicity of facts, it is next to impossible to make any extracts such as might convey an idea of it as a whole, and equally impossible to sum up his conclusions and present them in a condensed form in a newspaper. We may, however, allude to some of the questions which he discusses. And first, we present the result of his balances of English and French produce, profits, rents, &c., noting that a hectare is equal to two English acres and a half.

	FRANCE.	ENGLAND.
Proprietor's rent.....	30 francs per hectare	60 do. do.
Profit of the cultivator....	10 "	32 "
Taxes.....	5 "	20 "
Accessory expenses.....	5 "	40 "
Wages.....	50 "	48 "
Total.....	100	200

The figures in the English column here, are reduced by 20 per cent to accommodate the money values in the two countries, for the purpose of exact comparison. It appears from this table that the produce from equal areas is double in England what it is in France, at the same time that all the recipients from the land, excepting the labourers, receive a larger share in the former than in the latter. For instance, it will be seen that in England, compared with France, rents are double, profits more than treble, and taxes quadruple. The balance of wages is in favour of France; but it must not be inferred from this that the French labourers are better off than our own. On the contrary, it is one of the great triumphs of our agricultural organisation that we produce double with less labour. "In England 30 persons suffice to cultivate 100 hectares, so as to produce 200 francs per hectare, whilst in France 40 are necessary for obtaining an average production of 100 francs, and in Ireland 60." This advantage he ascribes in the main to the system of raising cattle, which yields us half of our gross produce, while in France it yields only one-fourth.

In addition to facts and figures bearing on the profits of agriculture and the produce of the two countries, M. Lavergne's book contains many speculations on side subjects of interest. We would refer to his pages all who desire to have light thrown on 'the question of small versus large farms, small versus large properties, on the vexed question of tenant right, and on the theory of leases. On the first of these, and on the second, M. Lavergne concludes for the advocates of neither extreme, but for medium farms and medium properties; on the third, he pronounces against tenant right altogether, and on grounds which appear to us to be good. On the subject of the Highland clearances and evictions, we confess not quite to agree with him. The public interest of Britain would have been better consulted by a different policy. Nor is it correct to say that the evicted from the Sutherlandshire estates were in distressed circumstances. They were very far from being so, and were mostly well-to-do farmers, holding from 50 to 70 acres apiece. However, the evil is now irreparable; the moral of the evictions is just being read to statesmen puzzled how to keep up an army, and casting eyes all over Europe for recruits.

The notes contributed to this work by "A Scotch Farmer" are short and few. We fancied in perusing M. Lavergne's work that there were many

points besides those noticed by him on which "A Scotch Farmer" might have thrown light. If the work come to a second edition, we would suggest that either he be removed from the title-page or made to do such work as might be expected from the position assigned to him.

TWO "SHILLING" BOOKS.

Who's your Friend? &c. By Alfred W. Cole.
Twelve Inside and One Out. By Hain Friswell.

James Blackwood.
James Blackwood.

ECCENTRIC titles are here in full force, but it is pleasant to add that the books by no means depend entirely upon their names for their humour or pathos. Mr. Cole's volume contains several stories—republished, we fancy,—all having more or less point. In vulgar language (which the general appearance of the book warrants us in using) every tale or sketch turns upon a social "sell;" and when it is known how popular "sells" are, and we say that these are tolerably good ones, well told, we have said enough.

Mr. Friswell's book deserves some higher recognition. Very bad machinery, that of an omnibus full of passengers, is employed as a means of introducing a dozen or more stories or sketches. Some are humorous, but often there is a very nice quiet vein of sentiment and pathos, and an occasional moral, which is felt rather than forced upon us. The morals are not very large, but in introducing them into railway literature it is, doubtless, a good plan to make them compact.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

History of Christian Churches and Sects from the Earliest Ages of Christianity. By the Rev. J. B. Marsden, M.A. (Part 4.) Richard Bentley.
A History of Modern Italy, from the First French Revolution to the Year 1850. By Richard Heber Wrightson. Richard Bentley.
Memoirs of the Court of England during the Reign of the Stuarts, including the Protectorate. By John Heneage Jesse. (New edition, revised.) Vol. 3. Richard Bentley.
On Lateral Curvature of the Spine, its Pathology and Treatment. By Bernard E. Brodhurst. John Churchill.
A History of the War: Forming a Complete Narrative of the Origin and Progress of the War, compiled from Public Documents and other Authentic Sources. Sampson Low, Son and Co.
The Crimea: its Towns, Inhabitants, and Social Customs. By a Lady, resident near the Alma. Partridge, Oakley, and Co.
Clytemnestra, The Earl's Return, The Artist, and other Poems. By Owen Meredith. Chapman and Hall.
Blue Beard, or Fatal Curiosity. Semi-Burlesque, for Private Theatricals. By Peter the Friar. Chapman and Hall.
Question of the supposed lost Tribes of Israel: A Paper read before Section E. of the British Association at Liverpool, the 26th September, 1854. To which are added two Appendices. By James Kennedy, Esq., L.L.B. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

The Arts.

THE ROYAL GALLERY OF ART.

THIS undertaking makes very satisfactory progress. The intention of giving us much variety, in each part, as the nature and limits of the work will allow, has been judiciously adhered to; and the fourth part is, on the whole, the best that has appeared. At the same time, we must state our candid impression that the success of the work is due, in a great measure, to the lighter class of subjects, which come safely within the scope of steel engraving; and that the qualities of artistic skill and high finish bestowed on those plates which represent familiar types of conventional excellence in painting, seem to be over-lavishly expended considering the result. We look, therefore, upon the fact that the Royal collection affords a proportion of only one such type in three pictures, as particularly fortunate to Mr. S. C. HALL's enterprise. Each part contains two modern designs and one specimen of an "old master"—generally Dutch. Last month we had a RUYSDAEL; this time we have a TENIERS. Everybody believes in RUYSDAEL, to such an extent, that having new prints of the "Windmill" thrust under one's nose is like being preached to. TENIERS, possessing more variety, would bear repetition better. But there is a superficial softness in the engrained accuracy of modern steel-engraving which is not happy as a means of representing the effects achieved by Dutch ingenuity and labour. The little square etchings, done from TENIERS by some clever fellow a hundred years ago, are infinitely more faithful and kindly remembrancers of their original.

The objection to RUYSDAEL does not occur in the case of UWINS. No one believes in him. Of all men and R.A.'s, excepting one SOLOMON HART, UWINS has received the greatest quantity of richly-merited condemnation. If asked to go and see a mythological subject by UWINS, our reply would have been strongly worded to the effect that we would much rather not. It is, therefore, with pleased surprise that we look on a steel engraving, as delicate, rich, light, and free from all hardness and metallic lustre as a lithograph by LANK; a steel engraving which shows us a graceful study of a boy and girl, sculptured and posed, with certain accessories indicating a "Cupid and Psyche," and with the inscription, "T. Uwins R.A. fecit," in a corner of the design. We can only regret that the artist who could so charmingly conceive and execute this little picture, should have allowed his name to be so long identified with the worst class of painting.

The most attractive of the three prints, this month, is the one with the title "First Love," from the graceful design by Mr. JENKINS, of the New Water-Colour Society. The TENIERS, which we have alluded to, is the "Merry-making," one of the artist's out-door scenes. STANFIELD's picture of "Porthmouth Harbour" is the third subject. It is ably engraved, the master-touches being soon recognisable. In selection of objects and vigour of treatment, we think the design superior to the preceding work of STANFIELD's "Mount St. Michael," which appeared in the first part of the "Royal Gallery."

SIR HENRY BISHOP—EXETER HALL.—Mr. Mitchell announces that, encouraged by the success attending the afternoon concerts at the Hanover-square Rooms, selected entirely from the compositions of this composer, he has determined upon trying the experiment on a largely extended scale at Exeter Hall, on Tuesday evening next, when, in addition to the vocalists engaged at the Hanover-square Rooms, Mr. Sims Reeves, Miss Birch, and a chorus of 200 voices will be engaged. The afternoon concerts are to be resumed after Easter.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Sir,—Of all the can'ts that are canted in this canting world of ours, I know not one more absurd than the constant appeal to Moses on points connected with the social economy of a very different order of civilization. Without stopping to inquire how far the Jewish legislator was indebted to divine inspiration for his sanitary regulations, or for rules and customs connected with a peculiar and isolated system of society, but rather admitting that *quidquid tradidit Moses* was a direct emanation from supreme wisdom, I would appeal to any man of common sense for the true interpretation of the 18th verse, 18th chapter of Leviticus:

"Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life-time." Surely the last clause confines the question within very narrow limits. The Jews, who indulged in polygamy—whether by divine inspiration or otherwise deponent saith not—are merely forbidden to marry two sisters at the same time. And this, not because it would be incestuous, but simply from a kindly motive, to avoid creating jealousies and mutual estrangement between sisters. Indeed, it can be no more incestuous to marry a deceased wife's sister than to marry a deceased husband's brother, which was not only permitted, but enjoined by the Levitical laws. If the Mosaic dispensation is still to prevail, let us, at least, be consistent, and conform to it in all points not specifically remodelled by the Antitype of Moses. And for this purpose it will be necessary that we assume the habits and manners of an oriental people, and adopt their character and idiosyncrasy—an absurd hypothesis. Yours, &c. V.

OFFICIALS, NOT OFFICIAL.—Peculiar information is a good thing, but correct information is a better. Some weeks since our contemporary, the *Press*, announced that Lord John Russell had been recalled to London, the noble lord at that very time being on his way from Paris to Vienna. A fortnight ago the same authority, which is supposed to have peculiar sources of information, oracularly hinted that Louis Napoleon, or, as Mr. Disraeli would say, "The Emperor Louis," was probably already on his way to the Crimea. "The Emperor Louis," however, is still in Paris.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ALLEN.—March 17, at Cresselly, Pembrokehire the Lady Catherine Allen: a son.
FARMER.—March 14, at Waterloo Cottage, Wellington-road, Reading, the lady of Captain Onslow Farmer, R.A.: a son.
GURNEY.—March 17, at Catton Hall, Norwich, Mrs. John Henry Gurney: a son.
ROBESON.—March 16, at Torrington Hall Finchley, Middlesex, Mrs. Thomas Robeson: a son.

MARRIAGES.

LUMLEY-HAMPDEN.—March 13, at Horton, Gloucestershire, Joseph Robert Lumley, of Harleston, Northamptonshire, Esq., to Sarah, relict of Renn Hampden, of Balis, in the Island of Barbados, Esq., and late M.P. for Marlow, Bucks.
PRESCOTT-PRATT.—March 13, at Horsham Church, Major Arthur Prescott, of the second Boubay Light Cavalry, to Isabella Maria Christina, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Joseph George Pratt, of Ramslagh, Chelms, and incumbent of Hanover Church, Regent-street.

DEATHS.

ESKINE.—March 19, at Butler's-green, Sussex, David Montagu Lord Eskine, aged seventy-nine.
FOWLER.—March 14, at Bishop's Tawton, in Devonshire, Lucy, relict of Thomas Fowler, Esq., of Abbey-cwm-hir, in Radnorshire, and mother (by her first husband, Thos. Humphrey Lowe, Esq.) of the Very Rev. the Dean of Exeter, aged ninety-three.
TALBOT.—March 15, at her residence, No. 1, Foundling-terrace, Miss Anne Elizabeth Talbot, daughter of the late Sir Charles Henry Talbot, Bart., of Mickleham, Surrey, and sister of the late Sir George Talbot, of the same place, Bart., aged eighty-six.
UTON.—March 14, at Brussels, the Hon. Edward John Upton, aged thirty-eight.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY.—**WEDNESDAY.**—JOSEPH WILKINSON, Jun., of Horsforth, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer.
BANKRUPTCY.—**THURSDAY.**—JONATHAN CLARKSON, Strand, grocer—ALEXANDER WILLIAM BELL, Cole's-terrace, Barnsbury-road, wine merchant—CHARLES FOX, Carshalton, seed crusher—EDMUND OAKLEY, Poole, corn merchant—HENRY BAKER, Canonville-street, London-wall, sugar boiler—WILLIAM PARKER RAMOND, Scott's-yard, Bush-lane, shipowner—JAMES BEAVER, Bedminster, beer retailer—WILLIAM ENGLAND and FREDERICK HENRY ENGLAND, Westbury, Wiltshire, woollen-cloth-manufacturers—PHILIP GERRARD, Stoke Canon, Devonshire, farmer—ABSALEM BENNETT, Epsom, Surrey, merchant—JAMES HOOD, Selby, Yorkshire, carrier—WILLIAM EGGLESTONE, Halifax, Yorkshire, stuff-merchant—THOMAS BROWN, Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer—WILLIAM CRITCHLEY, Manchester, publican.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. M'LEISH, Perth, manufacturer—W. M'NAUGHT, Glasgow, brickmaker—W. ALLISON, Paisley, Renfrewshire, tailor.

Friday, March 23.

BANKRUPTCY.—PHILIP HENRY HATCH, Wood-street, City, woollen warehouseman—THOMAS HUDSON, Chobham, grocer—GEORGE HARRIS, Chichester, Sussex, grocer—HENRY BUNNY, Newbury, brickmaker—ISAAC WILLIAM WALTON, Haymarket, hotel-keeper—JAMES WILSON, Princes-street, Hanover-square, tailor—FREDERICK GEORGE TALE and FRANCIS SMITH, Blackfriars-road, builders—

THOMAS LEAVELLE, Coventry, silk dyer—CHARLES JAMES WILLIAM MORRIS, Bilston, draper—WILLIAM HENRY DORS, Leicester, wine merchant—WALTER WILDE, Liverpool, corn broker—JAMES CHINAN, Burnley, grocer—MARTHA HOPE IRELAND, Newton Heath, Lancashire, dyer—JOHN MORGAN, Preston, spinner.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ROBERT CRITCHANKS, Auchinairn, Lanarkshire, grocer.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, March 23, 1855.
Consols fell considerably during the early part of the week; most unpleasant rumours were afloat that the Congress at Vienna had suddenly broken up, that the Allies had received a severe defeat before Sebastopol, and the Turks at Eupatoria. However, it would seem to have been a telegraphic communication written and sent a few hundred yards more or less from the vicinity of the Stock Exchange. Amongst other depressing contingencies, a new and heavy loan was talked of. Shares maintained a good price notwithstanding the fall in consols. Turkish Scrip also flattened slightly.

Crystal Palaces have been very firm, and well supported throughout the week. In the mines, United Mexican have been as high as 67 per share. It is affirmed that excellent accounts are likely to arrive from them. Nouveau Monde and Cocas are firmer. In everything else the mining market is terribly flat.

This afternoon the telegraph from Paris announces the Rentes to be better, so we have a slight fillip here.

Caledonians, 63½; Eastern Counties, 114, 11½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 72, 74; Great Northern, 87½, 88½; ditto, A stock, 71, 73; ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Western, 65, 65½; x. n.; North Western, 99½, 100; South Western, 83, 84; South Eastern, 61, 62; London and Brighton, 97, 99; Leeds, 76, 78; Midlands, 69½, 70; Berwick, 72, 73; Yorks, 40, 50; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 73, x. d.; Oxford and Worcester, 29, 31; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 8½, 9; East Indian, 21, 22; ditto Extension, 11, 12; Canada Great Western, 173, 184; ditto Trunks, 9, 8; Eastern of France, 33½, 33½; Paris and Lyons, 21½, 21½; Paris and Orleans, 47, 49; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Great Northern of France, 34½, 34½; Great Luxembourg, 21, 22; Western of France, 54, 61; pm; Agua Fria, 1, 1; Imperial Brazil, 21, 3; Cocas, 2, 2½; St. John del Rey, 30, 32; Linar, 78, 8; New ditto, 4, 4½; Pontigbeaud, 15, 16; Peninsula, dis. par; South Australian (copper), 4, 4½; pm; Waller, 4, 1; United Mexican, 51, 54; Australian Agricultural, 50, 51½; North British Australian, 4, 1; Scottish Australian Investment, 14, 14½; General Screw, 15, 16; South Australian Land, 35, 37; Crystal Palace, 31, 34; Canada 6 per cent., Government Bonds, 104, 104½; Australian Bank, 82, 84; Union of Australia, 65, 67; Oriental Corporation, 39, 41; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 201, 214.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, March 23, 1855.
The Wheat trade since this day week has been firm but not active. Prices having advanced again to about 70s. per quarter, the farmers have brought forward this week more liberal supplies, confirming the opinion which we expressed some months ago—that such would be the case for some time to come. There is no change in the value of Wheat in the Baltic ports. Good Mecklenburg Wheat 66s., cost, and freight from Hamburg to London; 67s. to West Coast, per 480 lb. 55 lb. Rostock, 66s.—60 lb. 61s. 6d.—61 lb. 63s. to 64s.—61 to 62 lb. 64s. to 65s. f. o. b. at Rostock. At Stettin, 60 lb. Wheat, Uckermark, and Pomeranian, 61s. f. o. b. Freight, 3s. 6d. to a coal port, and 5s. to 5s. 6d. to West Coast.

The supplies of Barley in town, although large, are taken off more readily, without reduction in the price. In the country supplies are diminishing. Without fresh arrivals in Oats, we have no advance to quote. Norfolk Flour meets a free sale at 30s. a sack.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock
3 per Cent. Red.
5 per Cent. Consol.
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
31 per Cent. An.
New 2½ per Cents.
Long Ann. 1860.
India Stock	227½	.....	225½	.....	.....	228
Ditto Bonds, £1000	11	11	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	10
Ex. Bills, £1000	9
Ditto, £500	9	9	9	.....	9
Ditto, Small	9	9	9	.....	9

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.

Brazilian Bonds	101½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	53½	Cents, 1822	100
Chilian 6 per Cents.	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.	90
Danish 5 per Cents.	.....	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def.	18½
Ecuador Bonds	.....	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Mexican 3 per Cents.	20½	of Coup. not fun.	.....
Mexican 3 per Ct. for	.....	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	24
Acc.	.....	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	94
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	.....	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	63
Portuguese 3 p. Cents.	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	94

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. WIGAN.

Last five nights before Easter will be performed the New Comedietta, called

TIT FOR TAT.

In which Messrs. A. Wigan, F. Robson, and Miss Maskell will perform.

After which

THE BLIGHTED BEING.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Leslie, Cooper, Danvers, and Miss E. Turner.

To conclude with the New Fairy Extravaganza, called THE YELLOW DWARF and THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Miss E. Ormonde, Miss E. Turner, Miss Bromley, and Mrs. Fitzalan.

EXETER HALL.—SIR HENRY BISHOP.

—An EVENING CONCERT upon an extended scale of Sir Henry Bishop's Vocal Music, will take place at Exeter Hall on Tuesday evening next, March 27, commencing at Eight o'clock. Conducted by Sir Henry Bishop. Programmes and Books of the several Compositions are now ready, price Sixpence.—Western Area 2s.; West Gallery, 3s.; Reserved Seats, not numbered, 5s.; Stalls, numbered and reserved, 7s. 6d. To be obtained at Mitchell's Royal Library, and all the principal Music-sellers, and at the Office, No. 6, Exeter Hall.

NO MORE PILLS NOR ANY OTHER

MEDICINE.—For Indigestion (Dyspepsia), Constipation, Nervous, Bilious, and Liver Complaints, Cough, Consumption, and Debility. By DU BARRY'S delicious REVALENTA ARABICA FOOD, which saves fifty times its cost in medicine.

A few out of more than 50,000 cures are given.

Cure No. 71, of dyspepsia, from the Right Hon. the LORD STUART DE DECIES:

"I have derived considerable benefit from Du Barry's Revalenta Arabica Food, and consider it due to yourselves and the public to authorise the publication of these lines."

"STUART DE DECIES."

From the DOWAGER-COUNTESS OF CASTLE-STUART: Cure 52,692.—Rosstrevor, County of Down, Ireland, 9th December, 1854.—The Dowager-Countess of Castle Stuart feels induced, in the interest of suffering humanity, to state that Du Barry's excellent Revalenta Arabica Food has cured her, after all medicines had failed, of indigestion, bile, great nervousness and irritability of many years' standing. This Food deserves the confidence of all sufferers, and may be considered a real blessing. Inquiries will be cheerfully answered.

Cure No. 49,832.—"Fifty years' indescribable agony from dyspepsia, nervousness, asthma, cough, constipation, flatulency, spasms, sickness at the stomach, and vomiting, have been removed by Du Barry's excellent food."

"MRIA JOLLY, Wortham, Ling, near Diss, Norfolk."

1 lb., 2s. 9d.; 2 lbs., 4s. 6d.; 5 lbs., 11s.; 12 lbs., 22s.; super-refined, 1 lb., 6s.; 2 lbs., 11s.; 5 lbs., 22s.; 10 lbs., 35s. The 10 lb. and 12 lb. carriage free on receipt of a post-office order. Barry, Du Barry, and Co., 77, Regent-street, London; London agents, Fortnum, Mason, and Co., purveyors to her Majesty, 182, Piccadilly; and also at 60, Gracechurch-street; 40, Bishopsgate-street; 4, Cheapside; 530 and 451, Strand; 55, Charing-cross.

COLE'S ALGA MARINA is the Concentrated

Essence of the Sea-weed, containing in a highly condensed form all the virtues of those plants, to which medical authorities ascribe the principal benefits derivable from a residence by the Sea. It affords speedy relief and a certain cure in all cases of Acute or Chronic Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, Neuralgia, and other pains in the limbs and joints. It is now rapidly superseding all other external remedies in cases of Weakness, Relaxation, Contraction, Paralysis, Stiffness, Deformities, Swellings, Tumours, Scrofulous Diseases, and the Malformations of Rickets or Badly-nursed Children; and in all cases where friction is recommended, it will greatly increase its good effects. Sold in bottles, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each, by T. Keating, 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and all Chemists. * * All sufferers should read the Pamphlet, which may be had gratis on application, and by post on enclosing six postage stamps.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS

Is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARI-

COSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA.

OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. This is, of all known remedies, the most pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the blood of all morbid matter, of bile, uric acid, scrofulous substances, humours of all kinds, which produce rashes, eruptions, salt rheum, erysipelas, scald head, sore eyes and ears, sore throat and ulcers, and sores on any part of the body. It is unsurpassed in its action upon the liver, the lungs, and the stomach, removing any cause of disease from those organs, and expelling all humours from the system. By cleansing the blood, it for ever prevents pustules, scales, pimples and every variety of sores on the face and breast. It is a great tonic, and imparts strength and vigour to the debilitated and weak, gives rest and refreshing sleep to the nervous and restless invalid. It is a great female medicine, and will cure more complaints peculiar to the sex than any other remedy in the world. Warehouse, 572, Strand, adjoining Exeter-Hall: POMEROY, ANDREWS and CO., Sole Proprietors. Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s.; small quart, 4s. 6d.; quarts, 7s. 6d.; mammoth, 11s.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, and

MOUSTACHIOS, are invariably produced in 2 or 3 weeks, by COUPELLE'S CELEBRATED CRINITIAL, the almost marvellous powers of which in the production and restoration of hair, strengthening weak hair, checking greyness, rendering the hair luxuriant, curly, and glossy, must be seen to be believed. Dr. Ure says: "It is the only preparation he can recommend for the nursery, as forming the basis of a good head of hair." 2s. per package, at 68, Cornhill; 14, Edgware-road; 154, Sloane-street; Wimpole, 78, High-street; Birmingham; Rames and Co., Leith Walk, Edinburgh; and Micklethay, York; Whitaker, Sheffield; Haigh, 116, Brigsteed, Leeds; Jones, 5, Paradise-street, Liverpool; Ferris and Co., Bristol; Westmacott, Manchester; Hensleigh, Plymouth; Evans and Co., Exeter; Campbell, Glasgow; and through all Chemists; or sent post free for 24 penny stamps, by Rosalie Coupele, 69, Castle-street, Newman-street, Oxford-street, London.

GENUINE COCOA.—Cocoa has been designated by Physicians of eminence as one of the richest productions of the vegetable kingdom, and, when properly prepared, is justly celebrated for its peculiarly invaluable nutritive properties. So keen, however, has been the avidity to render this article a lucrative manufacture, and so strenuous the competitive efforts thereby excited, that the most flagrant adulterations have been resorted to, with the sole aim of lowness of price. The evils with which so baneful a system is fraught are strikingly manifest to the medical profession, who, highly esteeming Cocoa (in its PURE STATE) as an article of diet, frequently prescribe and recommend it to invalids as a remedial agent in promoting health. The results are, however, too often rendered nugatory by the impurity of the article supplied.

The magnitude of our legitimate business as Tea Dealers necessarily precludes our devoting a strict and essential supervision to the manufacture of Cocoa; we have therefore completed arrangements with the highly respectable firm of Messrs. HENRY THOMAS and CO., Leeds, whose many years' successful experience in the preparation of this article, and the celebrity they have thereby acquired, together with their uncompromising determination to adhere to the principle they originally adopted, viz. to manufacture only from the choicest Nuts, and to rigidly eschew adulteration in any shape whatever, warrant us in recommending their "GENUINE TRINIDAD COCOA" to our numerous Friends, to the Medical Profession, and to the Public. Price—TENPENCE per POUND.

SIDNEY, WELLS, and CO., Family Tea-men,
8, LUDGATE-HILL,
SOLE AGENTS FOR LONDON.

FITCH AND SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, 8d. per lb.

Now for 15 Years before the Public, and still retaining its deserved pre-eminence, is CURED and SMOKED at CALNE, in WILTSHIRE, a district abounding in dairy farms, and offering peculiar facilities for the breed and fattening of Hogs.

It is SUPERIOR to all OTHER KINDS for its AGREEDLY STIMULATING FLAVOUR, and its freedom from saltiness; while it is a most excellent stomachic, and adapted for the most delicate constitution.

The price is 8d. per lb., by the half-side of 30lbs. A middle piece of 12lbs., 8d. per lb.
WILTSHIRE CHAPS, cured at Calne.
OX TONGUES, cured upon the Premises.
YORK, SOMERSET, and BRUNSWICK HAMS.
STRASBURG BACON.
CHEDDAR CHEESE, of extraordinary richness and fine flavour, are all worthy of notice for their surpassing quality and moderate price.

A remittance is requested from correspondents unknown to the Firm.

Deliveries free to all the London Railway Termini Daily.

FITCH AND SON'S ECONOMIC PROVISIONS.

	Per lb.
Fine Rich Cheshire, by single Cheese...	9 7½
Good Sound, ditto	9 7
Ditto Serviceable ditto	9 6½
Rich American ditto	9 6
Best Salt Butter, by half brick...	1 0
Very good ditto ditto	0 11
Fine Small Hams	0 8½

A Priced List of the parts of a Side of their CELEBRATED BACON free upon application.

FITCH AND SON,
PROVISION MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS,
66, Bishopsgate-within.

ADNAM'S Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.
TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.—The important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTEES, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their Improved Process in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

To enumerate the many advantages derived by the Public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obviated, and very superior Gruel speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of consumptive constitutions, Ladies, and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon or Supper.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged, and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguishing character for making very superior Barley-water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soup, &c.
A report having been circulated that preparations of so white a character could not be produced from Groats and Barley alone, the Patentees have had recourse to the highest authority, viz. A. S. TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S., &c., &c., for an analysis to establish the fact, a copy of which is subjoined:—

[COPY.]

Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,
February 10, 1855.

I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of Barley-meal and Groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good Barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation, I believe them to be genuine and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed)

A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. ADNAM and Co."

CAUTION.—To prevent error, the Public are requested to observe that each Package bears the Signature of the PATENTEES, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Cansisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Cansisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 3, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 2l. 14s. to 5l. 10s.; ditto with ornate ornaments and two sets of bars, 5l. 10s. to 12l. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. 6d. to 15s.; Steel Fenders from 2l. 12s. to 4l. 4s.; ditto, with rich or-molu ornaments, from 2l. 12s. to 7l. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 4l. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges—

Firstly—From the frequency and extent of his purchases and
Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

The Real NICKEL SILVER, introduced 20 years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when PLATED by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed in such either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s.	20s.	32s.
Dessert Forks	30s.	40s.	45s.
Dessert Spoons	30s.	42s.	48s.
Table Forks	40s.	50s.	60s.
Table Spoons	40s.	55s.	60s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s.	25s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto	5s.	11s.	12s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japan wares, iron and brass bedsteads and bedding), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 3, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO CHOOSE FROM.

HEAL and SON have just erected extensive Premises, which enable them to keep upwards of One Thousand Bedsteads in stock, One Hundred and Fifty of which are fixed for inspection, comprising every variety of Brass, Wood, and Iron, with Chintz and Damask Furniture, complete. Their new warehouses also contain an assortment of BEDROOM FURNITURE, which comprises every requisite, from the plainest Japanned Deal for Servants' Rooms, to the newest and most tasteful designs in Mahogany and other Woods. The whole warranted of the soundest and best manufacture. HEAL and SON'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF BEDSTEADS, AND PRICED LIST OF BEDDING, sent free by Post.—HEAL and SON, 196, Tottenham-court-road.

THE 16s. Trousers reduced to 14s.—Trousers and Waistcoat, 22s.—Coat, Waistcoat, and Trousers, 47s., made to order from Scotch Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrunk.

THE TWO GUINEA DRESS or FROCK COAT, the Guinea Dress Trousers, and the Half-Guinea Waistcoat, made to order by B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor, 74, Regent-street. For quality, style, and workmanship, cannot be equalled by any house in the kingdom.

N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL,

Prepared for MEDICINAL USE in the LOFODEN ISLES, NORWAY, and put to the test of Chemical Analysis.

Extracts from Medical Testimonials:—

THE LATE JONATHAN PEREIRA, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor at the University of London, Author of "The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics," &c. &c.

"I know that no one can be better, and few so well, acquainted with the physical and chemical properties of this medicine as yourself, whom I regard as the highest authority on the subject. The oil which you gave me was of the very finest quality, whether considered with reference to its colour, flavour, or chemical properties; and I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer oil can be procured."

ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.L.S., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the Local Board, Author of "Food and its Adulterations," &c. &c.

"I have more than once, at different times, subjected your Light Brown Oil to chemical analysis—and this unknown to yourself—and I have always found it to be free from all impurity, and rich in the constituents of bile. So great is my confidence in the article, that I usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition."

Sold in bottles, labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., 77, STRAND, London, Dr. de Jongh's sole accredited Consignees and Agents for the United Kingdom and the British Possessions.

May be obtained, in the country, from respectable Chemists and Vendors of Medicine. Should any difficulty be experienced in procuring the Oil, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co. will forward four half-pint bottles to any part of England, CARRIAGE PAID, on receipt of a remittance of ten shillings.

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints (20 ounces), 4s. 9d.; Quarts (40 ounces), 9s. IMPERIAL MEASURE.

A FOREIGN HOUSE has an Opening for a

Young Man of Active Business Habits, possessing about 1000*l.*, to whom a fixed Salary will be given. Apply by letter only, to X. Y., at C. W. Black's Advertising Office, 9, Catherine-court, Tower-hill.

CHUBB'S LOCKS, with all the recent improvements. Strong Fire-proof Safes, Cash and Steel Boxes. Complete lists of sizes and prices may be had on application.

CHUBB and SON, 57, St. Paul's Churchyard, London; 25, Lord-street, Liverpool; 15, Market-street, Manchester; and Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton.

HOBBS' PATENT AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LOCKS.

MESSRS. HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co. are now manufacturing their celebrated AMERICAN and ENGLISH LOCKS on the Premises, 97, CHEAPSIDE, and 35, LAWRENCE-LANE, LONDON; where by the introduction of their Patent Steam Machinery, they are enabled to guarantee SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP, combined with greater security, at a moderate price, than in any Locks produced, either in Town or Country.

EVERY LOCK being made and finished at the MANUFACTORY is WARRANTED, and bears THEIR OWN STAMP, without which none are genuine.

These Locks can be procured by order through any respectable Ironmonger in the United Kingdom, or at the WAREHOUSE, as above, WHOLESALE and RETAIL.

MILNER'S PATENT FIRE & BURGLAR PROOF SAFES,

fitted with HOBBS' PATENT POWDER-PROOF LOCKS, form the Strongest Safes against Fire and Robbery; they are made of various dimensions, adapted for the security of Money, Plate, and important Documents, Parish Registers, &c. List of prices and dimensions can be had on application to HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co.

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FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing Warehouse, Established A.D. 1706. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post.

DEANE, DRAY, and CO. (Opening to the Monument, London-bridge).

BENNETT'S MODEL WATCH

In gold cases from 10 guineas. In silver cases 5 guineas.

Every watch is skillfully examined, timed, and its performance guaranteed.

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